Conneaut School District Finance/Budget Committee March 30, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Conneaut School District Finance/Budget Committee

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The meeting of the Finance/Budget Committee was called to order at 2:00 pm on Monday, March 30, 2015 as advertised in the Central Office Conference Room. Present for the meeting were Directors Dorothy Luckock, David Schaef and Jody Sperry; Business Manager Kara Onorato, and Superintendent Jarrin Sperry.

The committee met with the following budget areas and administration to review their proposed budget requests; received additional information; review current staff and discuss any questions:

- Food Service – Sharon Gruver and Erin Braden from Nutrition, Inc. Items discussed included the 100% whole grain mandate – currently under a waiver; the amount of food being thrown away by students under the newer healthier guidelines; prices for next year; bad debt policy and smart snacks. The recommendation of the committee will be to take a minor increase of 5¢ for the 2015-16 year.
- Maintenance – Curly Schell – Discussed in more depth was the proposed costs of lawncare and what it covered; as well as whether to include a line item in this budget for unforeseen issues such as a contingency fund.
- Conneaut Valley Elementary – Adam Jardina – Briefly reviewed the incoming Kindergarten registrations and Jarrin will be reviewing all class sizes and staffing with all administrators shortly.
- Conneaut Lake Elementary – Doug Parks – Same as CV Elem.
- Athletics – John Acklin – In particular it was noted that CVMS missed coaches in the current budget; and also that the athletic trainers for the district missed at $28,000. A few other items reviewed were proposed uniform replacements; the automatic shoulder pad/helmet replacement schedule for football; the “Huddle” program now used by Football in lieu of scouting trips; Coaches Professional Development and mandatory training for coaches and volunteers.

Kara presented an example of a budget book/presentation from another district to see how the committee liked the proposed format for public information/review document of the budget. The consensus was in favor of this type of document as more “readable”.

The next meetings are scheduled for the Wednesday, April 15 at 2:00 pm; and Wednesday, April 29 at 3:00 pm in the Large Conference room. At each meeting we will be reviewing budget information from the following budget areas: Business Office, Personnel, Retirements/Staffing as well as determining overall cut level, use of fund balance and/or if need a tax increase to balance the budget. At this time plans are to budget state funding at prior year levels. Then if new state budget has increases, will adjust accordingly.