Conneaut School District Finance/Budget Committee Meeting Minutes for November 27, 2018

Conneaut School District Finance/Budget Committee

November 27, 2018

The meeting of the Finance/Budget Committee was called to order at 4:38 pm on November 27, 2018 as advertised in the Conference Room in the Central Office. Present for the meeting were Directors Dorothy Luckock, Jamie Hornstein and Theressa Miller, Business Manager Greg Mayle and Superintendent Jarrin Sperry. One member of the public was present.

- Greg reported on the Tentative Budget Calendar/Timeline.
  - He has met with all the building representatives and they have until Jan. 31st to collect
    their budget requests and enter those into eFinance. In addition, a reminder that the
    board will need to have on their December agenda to either keep tax increase below the
    Act 1 index as recommended by the Business Manager and this committee; or else must
    adopt much earlier a preliminary budget.
  - Budget presentation to the full board is scheduled for May with anticipated proposed
    final budget adopted May 8th; public inspection to follow with final budget vote on June
    12th.

- Extensive discussion was held on areas for evaluation/analysis on the board goal of a plan for a
  balanced budget within 3 years. During the 2019/20 budget work, areas to be listed for this
  analysis. Some areas already noted for review are:
  - Cost/Expense areas include:
    ▪ Professional Development – noting that excluded are tuition reimbursement per
      contract and Title IIA funded items. Would include membership dues, etc.
    ▪ Field Trips – noting that as an example – many elem/middle school trips are paid
      for by PTO but normally does not include costs of subs for the day. High school
      trips typically are paid from district funds.
    ▪ Intramurals
    ▪ Tutoring programs – effectiveness versus costs (especially bus costs)?
    ▪ Outside services
    ▪ IU services
  - Possible new Revenue areas include:
    ▪ Physician of Record
    ▪ Expanded Cyber Program – non-Conneaut students
    ▪ Transportation Recommendations – increase reimbursements
  - A question was raised if there was currently money in the budget to increase
    community involvement (besides the Title programs). Should there be and if so, how
    much and at the building level or at the district level? Brief discussion held.
  - It was suggested by a committee member that in all this analysis that programs
    (whether curriculum, athletics, activities) be evaluated for participation and
    effectiveness. Strive to set aside the emotion (such as “we have always offered that”)
    and focus on the data. May be some things that kids no longer have interest in and how
    much cost is associated with that offering?
The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday Jan. 22, 2019 at 4:30 pm.

Dorothy Luckock  
Board President/Committee Chairperson

Greg Mayle, Board Secretary