Conneaut School District Finance/Budget Committee

March 21, 2019

The meeting of the Finance/Budget Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on March 21, 2019 as advertised in the Conference Room in the Central Office. Present for the meeting were Directors Dorothy Luckock, Jamie Hornstein and Theresa Miller, Business Manager Greg Mayle and Superintendent Jarrin Sperry.

This continues the series of meetings to review department and building budget requests, etc. As we move along Greg is updating the reports. Anticipated early April to be able to forecast the remainder of this school year for budget comparisons. Note in each building is impact on reduction of e-rate reimbursements. This is $4,000 - $7,000 increase over prior year expenditures planned in each building.

- Conneaut Lake Elementary - items to note – this building houses Elem. Life Skills and Emotional Support; request in for cafeteria tables & chairs; in all buildings we will notice an increase in costs in communications due to reduction in e-rate reimbursements on phone and internet. They requested a total of $97,977 compared to last year $96,645 but noted actual expenditures of less than $70,000. Greg will be working with them some more on these details and reviewing special projects.
- Conneaut Valley Elementary – They did outstanding work on their requests. Once again the e-rate impact. It was also noted that the nursing subs will be moved to centrally budgeted items. They requested a total of $73,616 compared to last year $82,865 and actual expenditures less than $75,000.
- Conneaut Valley Middle School – same e-rate impact. Two projects in particular were discussed – a set of new “different signal” microphones for drama (to avoid the cellphone impact) and new hearing testing machine. A question was asked and Greg will talk to all the parties – if one set of microphones is purchased, can they be shared amongst the 2 middle school and high school – typically drama productions are scheduled at different times. Greg also to find out more regarding possible newer technology or options on the hearing machines. With these projects included they currently are at $135,055 compared to $135,998 last year. Typically expenditures less than $90,000.
- Conneaut Valley Middle School Athletics – This is “the year” for a number of football helmets to be replaced. They are costly, and reconditioning is not cheap either – both mandated due to safety guidelines. There are a couple questions that Greg will follow up on; and a request for a basketball machine. More info as to if this can be shared among buildings if, as an example, middle school girls are in a different season than high school girls? Including these requests, currently at $92,735 compared to $95,740. We will review again after Greg has talked to Brian.

The committee expressed appreciation to everyone for their information on special project requests. Being frugal in all areas was requested and the committee and business manager are willing to listen to special project planning.

Total budget update as of today $39,116,654 in Revenue; $41,030,813 in expenditures (at this time includes transfer to Capital projects of $750,000 and $75,000 to food service). Deficit of $1,914,160. As noted previously, this continues to be updated as work is done.

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Policy 603 Budget preparation was discussed and Greg to draft some updated phrasing and touch base with George Joseph.

Policy 622 Capital Asset Policy was reviewed and recommended to update from $1,500 (when established in 2002) to $2,500 for capitalization of assets. Noted that we do not plan to redo any previous purchases, just for any purchases after adoption of updated policy.

Greg will be sending for our review the #600-609 policies.

Once again, we want to remember to ask the board of any areas they want reviewed as we move forward in our multi-year projections/planning on impact of fund balance and potential timeframe for balanced budgets prior to use of all of our reserves/fund balance.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11th at 4:30 pm.

Dorothy Luckock, Committee Chair/Board President  Greg Mayle, Board Secretary