

**Conneaut School District Finance/Budget Committee**

**April 20, 2020**

The meeting of the Finance/Budget Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on April 20, 2020 with this meeting held remotely due to Coronavirus Stay-at-home and physical distancing guidelines. Present for the meeting remotely were Directors Dorothy Luckock, Jamie Hornstein and Theresa Miller, Business Manager Greg Mayle and Superintendent Jarrin Sperry. Present in the ASA gym as part of the remote meeting was one member of the public/media and Rick Kelly who was facilitating.

- Greg reported on Revenue concerns due to the Pandemic. As a whole, there is significant uncertainty. Earned Income Tax for the district is between 1-1.5 million. With many unemployed, a reminder that unemployment income is not subject to these taxes. In addition, delinquent real estate collections prior to June 30 will probably be greatly impacted. In “new” real estate taxes for the district occur during the fall. Discussions are being started between the county taxing bodies as to whether the county will delay the deadline for the spring county/local taxes; and if so – will the school districts also want to delay the fall deadlines. Greg is to reach out to George to see what board action would be required.
- At this time there is no delay on due date for district budgets to the state. The state is considering doing a 6 month budget because of the revenue impact.
- Stimulus money – the district has applied for monies and unsure yet if they will come in during the 19/20 budget cycle, or not until 20/21 cycle. There also is an option in the School Code that permits a district to adjust their budget for additional expenditures if “new” revenue is received from federal or local sources.
- 1:1 Discussion – Rick Kelly and Jarrin Sperry presented a proposal to the committee, then asking for consensus whether to present to the entire board – regarding expanding our 1:1 technology to K-12. A reminder that we were planning on expanding to grades 7&8 this coming year and had budgeted accordingly. With the remote learning we have been experiencing, and with Governor Wolf closing schools for the remainder of the academic year this has become an urgent issue. In addition, plans and brainstorming are also needed for any upcoming challenges in the fall/winter if there is a “second wave” of the COVID-19 virus. Rick had issues all the extra Chromebooks and any ipads out to students needing them for at home learning. Some of the ipads were 7-8 years old and unable to be updated for the last number of years. Fortunately, the elementary programs were able to be accomplished with some “work arounds” by the IT staff.
  - All devices would be Chromebooks
  - K-6 would have devices in classrooms “in carts” that could then be sent home if necessary
  - As to address those with internet challenges it is recommended to put information on a USB drive that would permit access and well as submission of responses in school work. Hot spots are also being looked into.
  - Some Title II monies could be utilized on equipment and also stimulus dollars (Title II normally for staff development).

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- Have submitted a request to Stated Educational Equity Grant but no answer yet. Federal Stimulus monies are a one-time and might be \$600-675,000. Some must be used for cleaning/PPE needs. But one-time device purchase can be considered. We were reminded that Transportation subsidy was from the state as we are now going to utilize some bus delivery for meals.
- Being that there would be so many new devices, Rick will generate an updated plan for sustainability.
- New devices would be issued to Grades 5 & 9, with the current grade 12 sent down to the elementary school.
- For elementary the proposed “log in” would be more of a QR code concept.
- Costs include the following for start-up/expansion:
  - 975 new Chromebooks = \$273,000
  - Google licenses = \$23,887.50
  - Cases = \$24,375
  - Relay filter licenses \$5,850 – might be delayed if remain in school and not taken home
  - Total cash outlay for current proposal = \$327,112.50
- Starting in 20/21 would anticipate 9<sup>th</sup> grade replacement devices remain at \$65,000 (normal schedule)
- Starting in 21/22 would need to replace both 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade \$107,360
- Anticipating a 6 year life span – noting that may get longer out of elementary devices when not sent home regularly.
- Current enrollment is 1827, and the current year budget of \$80,000 would need to go to \$108,000.
- Savings are expected in computer labs in middle and elementary buildings.
- A reminder that K-4 is using “SeeSaw” and 5-8 were already using Canvas, and just utilizing more in 5-8 than previously.
- The committee supports this proposal and will place on worksession agenda; with possible board vote (if full board endorses) at the special meeting May 6.
- A question was raised as to what, if any, advocacy can be done to state and federal legislators to strongly encourage the improvement of internet services in the rural areas.
- Frank Kimmel was present for the meeting to review the Buildings & Grounds budget. A couple items to note:
  - In prior budgets the cleaning/janitor in ASA was within payroll, etc. Starting this year notice that Central Office and ASA are now in this budget
  - Generator at ASA and fuel tank replacement was reviewed.
  - A review of the financial guidelines used for New Capital Equipment, replacement and what is in the 5 year Capital project fund. Within the yearly budget being reviewed are items less than \$10,000.
- The 5 year Capital Projects plan was reviewed. Due to the Pandemic guidelines, the Architect was unable to get into the buildings, etc. to do the planned spring work on 2 projects planned to be done over the summer. One is the CVMS aux gym floor and Frank had discussions with

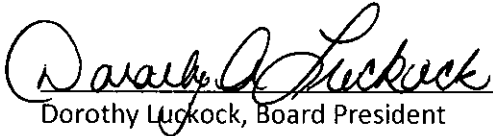
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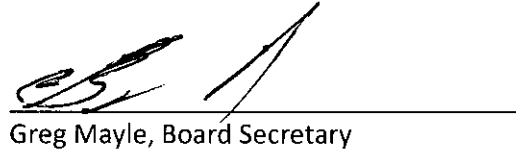
Principal Kevin Burns about an option to have the work done during the school year. The other large one impacted is the renovation of CLMS learning support classroom which would improve restroom access among other items. This is something that cannot be accomplished during the school year.

- Funding for the Capital Project fund – Greg presented a report and has updated the \$500,000 transfer for funding to \$750,000. Some of the impact is due to reduction in investment income. The committee continues to support the Capital Project 5 year fund balance concept.
- Building Budgets – Due to the length of the meeting it was decided to table these until the next meeting. The information is on Agenda Manager and Greg encouraged review and questions between now and then.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Currently, we anticipate having remote meetings until further notice. We will make every effort to maintain our meeting schedule. The next scheduled meeting is Weds. May 6 at 5:30 pm.

  
Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
Greg Mayle, Board Secretary