Conneaut School District Finance/Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2022

The meeting of the Finance/Budget Committee was called to order at 6:00 pm on February 2, 2022, in the ASA meeting room. Present for the meeting were Directors Dorothy Luckock, Jamie Hornstein and Adam Horne, Business Manager Greg Mayle and Superintendent Jarrin Sperry. In addition, one member of the public and Rick Kelly available to facilitate Teams if needed.

- 22-23 Budget Update — Greg reported that all buildings have turned in their proposed budgets and that information is being compiled and evaluated. Greg is working through the annual renewals such as insurance, etc.
  - It was noted that special efforts are being made in regard to the substitute teacher/aide shortage. Dissatisfaction with Kelly Services has been ongoing from our district as well as the others in Crawford County. Preliminary discussion and evaluation with ESS is being held. They focus on only education personnel. In addition, the current pay rate for subs is being evaluated and the committee encouraged Greg and Jarrin to prepare a proposal for the Feb. voting meeting. Discussion is still being held in regard to a Crawford County consortium if necessary.

- 22-23 PSERS Contribution Rate — Greg reported that the new rate will be 35.26%, which is an increase of .3% and will mean approximately $44,000 increase.

- 22-23 Health Insurance — Documents were attached for the committee to review. We are part of the NOREBT trust, but our “pot of money” is just ours. Therefore, if we have a low claims year we have extra to carry over, but if claims exceed what we have put in based on rates then we are in a deficit. As of now we are in a deficit of $605,143.09.
  - Balance July 2021 was minus $232,209.73 and thru Nov. 2021 balance of minus $605,143.09
  - This scenario has been caused primarily by prescription costs. Last year we did an increase of 8% and this year would need to be a minimum of 15% increase in rates – just to avoid going deeper into the negative. Questions and discussion regarding making the increase higher to start to recover some of the deficit was held. One factor to keep in mind is that there are retirees that pay for ongoing coverage, and they would have to pay whatever the total increase we determine.
  - One mention was to possibly consider a one-time payment/transfer to reduce the large negative balance in the fund.

- Fair Funding Resolution — Greg mentioned that he has tried to evaluate the latest version being proposed. Currently, only “new money” goes through the updated formula; with prior monies using the older formula. We are continued decrease in student population; this could have a very negative impact for us if all money went through the new formula. Greg will keep us updated but the committee is not going to recommend endorsement until we know more about it.

The next meeting is scheduled for Weds. March 2 at 5:30 pm prior to the worksession meeting.

Dorothy Luckock, Board President

Greg Mayle, Board Secretary