Conneaut School District Finance/Budget Committee

April 6, 2022

The meeting of the Finance/Budget Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on April 6, 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.

- Rick Kelly presented and discussed his budget for the Technology Dept. He stressed that he has tried very hard to keep even or reduce every year, but this year was not able to do that. Various categories were given extra explanation for the committee’s understanding. Main increase was in the Replacement Tech Equipment category due to moving from VM Ware to standalone operating system computers, primarily in the computer labs. He noted that with the increased use of Chromebooks some buildings are removing their computer labs unless needed for a specific purpose (such as CAD). In addition, Rick noted that he budgets higher in Infrastructure in case the e-rate program doesn’t provide as in the past. He also noted that if not used they are unused funds at year end.
- Budget update – Greg provided a summary update noting what it looks like as of this date if no stimulus monies to balance the budget. A reminder that the 21/22 budget had a deficit on $1,313,151. As of this date (noting more work to be done), 22/23 has a deficit on $3,025,486. He also reminded us that referring back to the 20/21 year both “other financing sources” and “debt service/other” are higher due to the refinancing of the bond that year. He has kept state and federal revenue flat and typically don’t get final state budget funding numbers until after our budget is adopted. So, any increase from the state is helpful, but we don’t count on it.
  - Greg provided 2 of the slides from his presentation that will be given at the work session later in the evening. Items discussed included:
    - Potential Expenditure savings – Transportation – increase ride time maximum; staffing attrition via retirements; overtime/extra days; departmental savings; athletic game workers/field painting, etc.; Intramurals; Reduce printing/copying; health insurance (broker, wellness programs); travel; vehicle fleet; and employment advertising.
    - Potential Revenue Increases – Assessment appeals; real estate discount rate (we are at 3% for early payment most everyone else is 2% and would generate approximately $100,000); Increase grant participation; and Open cyber programs to external schools
    - It was brought up and discussed to do a feasibility study on moving grades 7&8 onto the Linesville campus (example a Junior High set-up in ASA); then keep K-6 in a single building each in the CV and CL area. One member noted that the K-6 set-up would probably fit better in the current MS buildings, using both CVMS and CLMS. It was also noted that the study/evaluation would take some time.
- Substitute Staffing services – Greg noted that he and Jarrin felt secure in recommending for vote next week to change from Kelly Services to ESS for the 22/23 school year. They have a local presence, and the “markup” rate is less than Kelly. Much discussion was held with them regarding fill rates.
- Extra meetings – the committee established 2 additional budget meetings at this time:
  - Thurs. April 14th at 11 am via Teams for committee members, noting the ad will note the location for those wanting to attend in person (such as the public)
  - Tues. April 19th at 6 pm in person

The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for Weds. May 4 at 5:30 pm in ASA prior to the work session meeting.

Dorothy Luckock, Board President
Greg Mayle, Board Secretary