

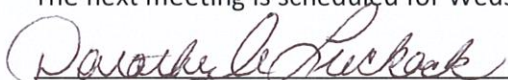
Conneaut School District Finance/Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

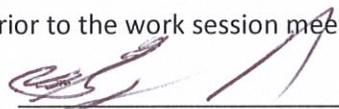
March 2, 2022

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

- Susy Dressel gave information regarding a desire to add a 3rd psychologist. The original intent was to contract with an agency for the remainder of the school year but turned out to be both cost prohibitive as well as a fee of \$21,000 if that person would end up being hired by the district as an employee. After discussion regarding the caseloads, student need as well as trying to be fiscally responsible, the committee agreed to recommend to the full board consideration of posting for the position immediately. For the remainder of this school year and next school year we can use stimulus funding. But after that it would need to be incorporated into the general fund. George Joseph is to be contacted regarding ability, or lack of, to adjust staffing levels in future years. His legal interpretation will be taken into consideration on our recommendation. The psychologists are on a separate contract, not part of the union.
- Budget summary 22-23: A lot of work to do. Greg's report showed the current draft without any stimulus money. This was following the requests from last year of the committee to see these numbers so that we are not missing deficits that need worked on each year. Currently it stands at - \$2,686,167 or that expenditures would exceed revenues by \$2,686,167. If another psychologist is added, that will put another \$120,000 (approx.) onto the deficit. Greg is only aware of small amounts easily adjusted. It was noted that we have significant health care increases and knowing that we are negotiating a new CEA contract, expect other increases needing consideration.
- Business Office Budget: We reviewed the proposed budget and discussed the increasing high costs of newspaper advertising for "help wanted". In the last few years, they have tried to ask applicants where they heard of the opening and very rarely is from a local newspaper. Greg and his department are seriously considering a "hiring" software that would permit completion of applications through an online format reducing time and costs, etc.
- Substitutes: Greg reported on trends & costs of Kelly Services as the board and committee have directed staff to find other avenues for next year. Many unknowns going into another school year as both last year and this year have been outside of trends used for analysis.
- Centrally budgeted items: Debt service has a significant increase, and this is due to the payment schedule. We also share in CTC debt service and their per student costs are up especially due to healthcare increases. Legal services are projected increased due to time involved in contract negotiations this year. Transportation and Utilities are significantly increased, and they were discussed. The committee would like to have additional information on reducing the number of bus runs, to include information (as an example) of what change if ride time was 75 minutes instead of 1 hour, etc. The typical message from the bus contractor is running out of time before running out of space on a bus. A couple other scenarios were mentioned for analysis.
- IU Budget: Greg noted that Conneaut portion is fairly flat. Other IU services are fee based on usage and student count.

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


Dorothy Luckock, Board President


Greg Mayle, Board Secretary