

## Conneaut School District Finance/Budget Committee

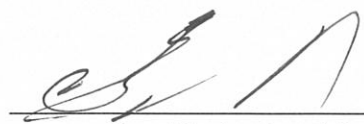
November 2, 2022

The meeting of the Finance/Budget Committee was called to order at 6:00 pm on November 2, 2022, in the ASA meeting room. Present for the meeting were Directors Jamie Hornstein and Dorothy Luckock with Adam Horne absent; Business Manager Greg Mayle and Superintendent Jarrin Sperry.

- 2021-2022 Recap – Greg reported that the auditors are well through their work and no findings at this time. He expects them to present their report at the January meeting. There was a loss of \$867,000 in the general fund – mainly due to high health claims (we are self-insured through NOREBT), utilities, fuel for buses, etc. The fund balance began the year at 12.7 million and will end at 11.8 million.
- 2023-2024 Budget – the timeline for the next budget was touched upon with a reminder that a decision regarding the Act 1 Index affects the timing. For the next budget year, the Act 1 Index is 5.5% of the budget or 2.84 mils. The committee was reminded that if they are considering exceeding the Act 1 index for tax increase then it must go to voter referendum – moving up the budget prep. The consensus of the committee was to NOT exceed and recommend to the board to vote as such. At this time, it was noted that no decision was made regarding any tax increase, only that if one was approved by the board, it would not exceed the index. Greg is to arrange for the appropriate motion to be on the December agenda.
- Board Goal – Cost Savings Tracker – both as recommended by this committee during the past year, and now included as a formal Board Goal – is the creation of a Cost Savings Tracker to address the deficit in the budget. We were reminded that the current year and next year will be helped by the ESSR funds. Jamie Hornstein presented a sample Excel spreadsheet as well as a PowerPoint presentation as a template. After review by the committee, it was the consensus to present the PowerPoint to the full board at the worksession (that followed this meeting) as information and feedback on the template and process. It is expected that at the January meetings we will be able to look at a good start. Input on ideas is to come from the board, administration, staff, as well as the public. Impact is to be evaluated not just on costs but also educational impact, community impact and social/emotional impact on students.
- Input from the Public:
  - Resident and taxpayer Chris Parker asked why monies were spent on renovating bathrooms. He cannot support tax increases and is concerned that there is a lower percentage of space being utilized in buildings. Since 1983 enrollment has been down and taxpayers are concerned with the economy and fuel prices. In addition, he encouraged contact to legislators on property tax elimination. The committee highlighted the new cost savings tracker to try to reduce costs.
  - Ryan Klink – board member and taxpayer – asked regarding the costs of utilizing an outside provider for Autism students in comparison to costs of providing in house. It was noted that an evaluation could be added to the cost savings tracker. Unknown which option is most cost effective until evaluated.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for Weds. Dec. 7 at 6:00 pm.

  
Dorothy Luckock, Board President

  
Greg Mayle, Board Secretary