

BUDGET COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 19, 2013

PRESENT: David Bowser, Erin Comly, Cheryl Kessler, Heather Mausteller, Frank Suchwala, Kathee Stark. Also present were Jody Love and Renee Hodgson who offered no comments.

The meeting began at 5:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a review of the minutes of the last meeting, followed by a discussion of the budget request sheets and an updated list of changes to those requests. Several conferences were deleted because there are funds in other parts of the budget. Teachers will need to attend conferences as part of their differentiated supervision process, both for their own edification, as well as possible Action Research projects.

Several possible purchases for athletics were reviewed. The committee was updated on the purchase of three new AED units which are easier to use. Items to be reviewed for cost and need include a wobble board and a portable table. Softball and cheerleading are requesting new uniforms. While both received committee approval, there was a concern that the cheerleading uniforms be carefully selected for fit and ease of replacement.

Textbook purchases are being placed on hold. Some will be purchased to provide replacements and be certain there are sufficient numbers for the students entering. Teachers will be reviewing the new K-12 curricula for Algebra I, Biology, and Language Arts. If adopted, this could alter the requests. Therefore, funds for books are in a separate part of the budget to be used when determined. The district plans to continue to implement the 1:1 computing process, stressing that technology is a tool for learning, not an end in itself. Discussion centered on moving to a Mac-based system, with teachers receiving their computers and relevant training before hardware is given to students. Kathee discussed some the ideas presented at the recent Tech Conference at Milton High School, including the use of QRs, Techbooks, and Brain Ware to improve cognitive skills. The committee affirmed the plans to provide a stipend to teachers who have volunteered to review the new curricula, as well as providing transportation for students to attend the Summer Learning Camp as part of Title I funding.

Dave discussed proposed changes in insurance coverage. The committee recommends that the deductible on the fire and loss insurance be increased and the district purchase privacy protection. They concurred with Dave's recommendation that there be no change in workman's comp. insurance at this time.

The committee was informed about changes in the budget which had occurred since their last review, including a reduction in anticipated Delinquent Real Estate Tax collections and the addition of a half-time physical education teacher. Dave informed the committee of the laws concerning the relationship between fund balances and overall budgets. The committee was told that it is unlikely that the Board will be able to increase millage for at least 2-3 years due to present balances of unassigned general fund reserves. The Board will have to practice careful budgeting practices or the balances will decrease and Act 1 will not allow them to increase millage to reverse shrinking reserves. The reserves need to be there for unforeseen incidents or planned expenditures. Based on this, the only option which will be prepared for the Homestead/Farmstead Exemption will be based on no millage increase.

The committee was also provided with a list of proposed changes to the ala carte items offered in the cafeterias. There will be no changes in breakfast or lunch charges.

The committee met in Executive Session for personnel, and the meeting concluded at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathee Stark