

March 16, 2021 BOE Meeting Transcript

Ryan Schoenfeld: In the library and.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Setting up the audio, so this is live with local live.

Duncan Wilson: I think we're waiting.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Waiting for the.

Ryan Schoenfeld: exact same as.

Duncan Wilson: Everyone else is here.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Okay.

Duncan Wilson: And folks you should now be able to unmute yourselves and turn your cameras on when you need to.

Duncan Wilson: We have guests in the audience.

Duncan Wilson: We're already recording.

Frank Hariton: OK, so my sound works I'll turn it off.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Your sounds coming through.

Matthew Bonney: Testing 123.

Ryan Schoenfeld: We're live just waiting for everyone to be.

Ryan Schoenfeld: I'm casting also in the library for local live thanks for everybody else everybody else who's joining in on the webinar.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Trustee Bonney whenever you're ready.

Matthew Bonney: We're good to go.

Matthew Bonney: Okay.

Matthew Bonney: We're back from executive session.

Matthew Bonney: Our emergency exits I hope you know we are on our end very soon, hopefully we'll all be there, so we have to point them out next our pledge of allegiance I.

Matthew Bonney: pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, the Republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Matthew Bonney: Okay.

Matthew Bonney: Now our first thing is our viewer a proving our Minutes of March 2 121.

Matthew Bonney: All in favor.

Nicole Minore: Second.

Matthew Bonney: Second, thank you.

Matthew Bonney: Okay first.

Matthew Bonney: I'm not sure who's taking this, we have a public hearing our district wide safety plan.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Well, basically, what I wanted people to be aware of, we have our district wide safety plan that is something that shared with the public.

Ryan Schoenfeld: We also have building level plans those we do not disclose publicly, but we continue to have those set as law enforcement fire department, etc.

Ryan Schoenfeld: When we're talking about our district safety plan, this was a plan that we had approved before there was an amendment to the plan which basically as you're aware of covert being.

Ryan Schoenfeld: A situation that you're in a crisis, they wanted to have from a government standpoint part of our district plan, an opportunity to have.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Some of the plans that we actually put in place for coven to be outlined in our district plan so that, if there were to be a similar situation as robot.

Ryan Schoenfeld: We would have this documented and we could move forward as a district and have a lot of that already captured so even for what I'll call sustainability.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Having that within our district plan is important for consistency and again I'll say lessons learned recognizing responsibilities there's a section that a tandem that does have specific roles and what responsibilities, if we weren't in.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Our again our plan.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And there's also some additional information we do feel that we left we did have an agreement with the safety committee.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And we shared also with our unions, so they were aware and, again, there were no concerns we left it.

Ryan Schoenfeld: In in some way general we didn't get into all the specificity, however, the general understandings that was required by our plan be approved tonight it's up for approval we meet the guideline of April 1 to have approval and again we would share that.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And post that within our website with that again that's added in.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So it's not very different than the plan that we had once before the big differences about two pages that specifically speaks to if you had some sort of crisis similar to COVID.

Ryan Schoenfeld: It's not gonna happen again, but we have that that was me knocking on wood.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And that ends that part of it.

Matthew Bonney: Okay, thank you.

Matthew Bonney: Any questions from anybody on the board, I think it's clear, is it just COVID update all right now next we have our public budget work session three. Dr Schoenfeld, are you running it or is Assistant Superintendent Rosenblatt going to run it? I know we have esteemed guests with us tonight.

Ryan Schoenfeld: I believe, Dr Wilson will run the slides the deck and our Assistant Superintendent Rosenblatt will present the majority, and we do have.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Our building principals as well as special ed pupil personnel with Miss Farruggio and Miss Seda and then also our athletic Director, Mr. Rampone.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So they will be again speaking at some point during this presentation and available for any Q and a We appreciate you all being on this zoom meeting tonight.

Duncan Wilson: So, Dr schoenfeld the slides should be visible now on the main screen if you give me a thumbs up I'll know that and then.

Duncan Wilson: We'll turn it over to discursive lead.

Duncan Wilson: To begin.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So, thank you very much we're here at the third budget workshop Dr. Wilson, you can advance the slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So, just a brief overview of the development process, how we work through our budget.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So in December we start really looking at our analysis of all of our expenditures and revenues historically.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And we hold multiple meetings with the building administrators who are here tonight directors assistant superintendents to really discuss needs for the upcoming year.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We meet multiple times there are many iterations that that go through the process we calculate the maximum allowable tax levy we analyze the state aid based on the governor's proposal.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And we look at our enrollment projections and align that staffing the staffing needs with enrollment so we come up with a.

Cheri Rosenblatt: You know the goal is to develop a fiscally responsible budget that supports the district goals meets our contractual obligations state and federal mandates and preserves arts lee's high quality educational programs.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So we can advance to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So this is a first look prior to any staffing requests as of tonight, the proposed budget for.

Cheri Rosenblatt: we're looking at a budget to budget increase of 1.73%.

Cheri Rosenblatt: For a total expenditure amount of 74 million to 32 661 now I'm going to go through a couple of these items.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Because you can see some fluctuation in some of them so they would need some explanation, so I want to walk through all of them for everybody.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So we can go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Just a brief graphical overview of our expenditures, as you can see.

Cheri Rosenblatt: I think we spoke about how the budget is made up in the last work session and the bulk of our expenditures are salaries and benefits, and this is no different in the anticipated expenditures for 2122.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So we're looking at about 75 almost 76% of our budget that is made up of salaries and benefits and the rest, you can see, are things like special ED depth service transportation boosts us cost athletics supplies and other types of expenditures.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So we can go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So salaries really are increased based on our contractual agreements and individual contracts so each of our bargaining units our teachers our clerical unit our maintenance staff unit they're all based on contracts, so we budget for them, based on our contractual agreements.

Cheri Rosenblatt: It also includes so in our last budget workshop we had thought we were going to go down a section in total at concord road and we'll show you in later slides why we are remaining at 41 sections so.

Cheri Rosenblatt: This budget includes the projection to retain 41 sections at concord road largely related to the second grade and the class size and we'll go through that in later slides.

Cheri Rosenblatt: On our benefits it reflects an increase in employer contribution rates for both trs and ERS are trs contribution rate we are required to.

Cheri Rosenblatt: contribute 9.8%, which is the projected contribution rate for next year on all of our teacher salaries and about 16.2% on average for our employee retirement, which is all of our other non certified staff, other than our educators.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Benefits has grown tremendously for next year, the average health insurance rate increase is projected at 3.91% However, our active employees that includes the medicare.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Plans for our retirees so just on our single to person and our family coverages those are projected to the premiums are projected to increase 4.85% so it's quite significant for next year, our retiree health insurance costs are projected to increase over \$200,000 for 21 and 22.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Special ED I know it seems that special ED looks like it's going down so a small decrease in special at how ever.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Our special educators are on our salary line so while it looks as though special ED is going down, we have we're not decreasing any teachers for special ED it's it has nothing to do with that so it's a little misleading in that respect.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So the reason why that is going down is we look at our out of district placement assumptions students that are placed in a bow season or another, out of district.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Educational facility, whether it's a residential or a non residential and we make budgeting assumptions on that, so we know what we know students, that we have, and then we have some potential placements So those are going down.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The contractual needs are going up, however, so that is offsetting so that's why you see a small decrease, so the contractual needs are things like.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Outside of assistive technology things of that nature that people that come in to assist with our special education students.

Cheri Rosenblatt: For a debt service, this includes our energy performance contract bond anticipation note, so that project is beginning this summer and it includes the least estimate of for new buses.

Pam Eptein: I just asked a question about that slide sure sorry I'm so the retiree health insurance costs increase is that due to a corresponding increase in retirements perhaps due to code for this year.

Cheri Rosenblatt: we've had some retirements and that does.

Cheri Rosenblatt: increase our retiree health insurance costs so, especially when there are retirees that retire prior to 65 so when between most.

Cheri Rosenblatt: educators can retire at 55 if they have 30 years according to the trs plan so if they retire that's 10 years that they could be on a non medicare plan so that's more costly, so the single and family coverages are going up higher than the medicare plans.

Pam Eptein: Is it perhaps a larger number of retirees have added to this.

Cheri Rosenblatt: yeah.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We had one out retirees yes.

Matthew Bonney: Well, I think it's fair to say that certainly our teaching population is starting to more starting to near retirement.

Matthew Bonney: Then we're 10 years ago.

Pam Eptein: sure that the question was based on whether it accelerated because of coven or whether this was perhaps would have happened regardless to the age of the teachers.

Cheri Rosenblatt: I mean, I think I think it was a personal decision by the teachers so I'm not sure exactly what their reason for retirement was if they were eligible and they made a decision to go it could be, but I I'd be making a guest to say that it was because of coated.

Nicole Minore: There were some increases in retirements in general with teachers, I think, across the board, due to coded so it's not we're not the only district that I mean it's a personal decision that's all there is to it and so.

Nicole Minore: You know it's not I don't necessarily think it's probably people who didn't have it on their radar anyway.

Frank Hariton: No one, no one has to tell us, it was because of coping if they retired.

Pam Eptein: Right it's just whether you're going to see a bump up this year, perhaps less than future years it's just.

Nicole Minore: Understanding you're just trying to see if there's a trend happening here if we're going to see it continue to increase, and you know more numbers, then I've got it and understand okay.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Dr Wilson, do you want to go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So with transportation, while we're showing a small decrease in some of our transportation costs that's largely related to we if we are purchasing more of our own buses our out of districts cost for.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Our contractor goes down because the costs were able to.

Cheri Rosenblatt: use our own buses, instead of contracting with our bus contractor, but again, costs are dependent on placements so for our out of district, we could have students that are placed.

Cheri Rosenblatt: further away or not able to share rides with other districts because it's a unique placement so there's always a possibility that's dependent on those kind of factors to determine whether we're able to save on costs.

Cheri Rosenblatt: For buildings and grounds, we have a projected CPI and prevailing wage increase for contractual cleaning and security, so do have an increase their.

Cheri Rosenblatt: In it also includes an additional application of anti microbial coatings for the high touch surfaces, so we applied an Anti microbial coating on our high touch services in the district, as a result of covert and we budgeted for another year of doing that for the.

Cheri Rosenblatt: school year we are reflecting a small utility savings on the electricity because of the Energy Performance contract, which is a solar project so we're expected to see some savings in the first year.

Cheri Rosenblatt: It probably wouldn't be as high as it would be an outer years because they're going to be installing it so it wouldn't be a full year with all the solar installed and then, as part of our.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Safety, we need to maintain and keep an inventory of P P for i'll say the next pandemic if there ever is one so we're maintaining a small budget to keep some PP on hand.

Cheri Rosenblatt: For technology, there is an increase for device replacement.

Cheri Rosenblatt: replacement cycle and obsolescence so as a result of Kobe we're moving towards a one to one devices so we've made a significant investment this year in additional technology.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And then we're replacing a lot of our desktops as a result of obsolescence so we try to keep a cycle, so that we're not replacing all of our technology at once, so we keep for a certain period of time, and then we replace in stages.

Cheri Rosenblatt: there's also an increase in our software costs so again, as a result of co bid we did shift to a lot more software that we've been using and a lot of them have.

Cheri Rosenblatt: been very valuable to our educators, so there, there will be a continuation of using those software tool, so we are going to see some increase in some software costs going forward.

Cheri Rosenblatt: for both parties, we are looking at we share as being a bowl sees component district, we share in the bowl season, administrative and capital charges so our both these charges are increasing about 14% next year.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And we are using more library closers through Bossi, so this is more of the digital library, the automation media things like online references and such that we've increased our purchase of, and that also has been going up.

Nicole Minore: As.

Teresa Quackenbush: A question about that I forgot to ask that yesterday with.

Teresa Quackenbush: Is that a typical increase, and it seems pretty steep.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Well it's a four which one for.

Teresa Quackenbush: The boss says.

Cheri Rosenblatt: It is going up it's about 14 you mean on the administer and the bulk of it is from our administrative costs and we.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Both sees has costs and as a result of their administrative budget it's mostly their administrative budget their capital budget is relatively small so it's coming from their costs to run both these so as their costs go up it gets allocated towards all the districts.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We, the way its allocated I think there's 28 component districts and the way its allocated across the district is your share of.

Cheri Rosenblatt: A call it enrollment it's your enrollment it's our water so it's ours leaves our water over the total arvada for.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The Westminster components, so when you look at it actually the total lot of for the components is actually decreasing.

Cheri Rosenblatt: arts least is going up, because our enrollment has increased so we're actually getting a little bigger piece of the pie, because our enrollment is start it has been going up and.

Frank Hariton: It was the liaison to both sees from the board for years they've had problems with how they operate that back themselves somehow into a corner, where they have very high pension costs.

Frank Hariton: And they say hey we have I pension costs as it, what are you doing about it well, we reduced half a secretarial position.

Frank Hariton: If we had a similar situation where our costs were out of control and we told our public that's what we did about it.

Frank Hariton: I think we'd have major problems, but they apparently have no problems doing that.

Because.

Frank Hariton: They have a fairly captive audience known as school districts.

Matthew Bonney: And just add to that so we about a year and a half ago, before coven started a trustee hired in and I former trustee looked into our relationship and Paris is formed in the late 40s early 50s and we're sort of locked into it.

Matthew Bonney: we're not happy with how they run it we do get benefit from being there but there's nothing we can really do about this.

Frank Hariton: bolshie is one of those things when a school district joins it they joined it forever and.

Frank Hariton: I asked are both sees what makes us part of you, and they handed me after a lot of prodding some minutes from 1948 that someone from both he's participated in End of story urine.

Matthew Bonney: And just to elaborate.

Matthew Bonney: Both seizes and system to pretend and rosenblatt.

Matthew Bonney: One of the other some of the other schools mount Vernon greenberg.

Matthew Bonney: Actually, those are the other ones it we're not going to get any sympathy by saying hey we're paying too much, we want to back out let's lay the cost on our poor districts so we've been attempting to deal with this.

Matthew Bonney: We actually didn't vote on time on his budget so technically we didn't vote on it, but we've got no way out.

Nicole Minore: Can I throw one other question out there about that particular slide with regard to going back to building and grounds real quick sort of regarding the The anti microbial coatings.

Nicole Minore: Even though we're still continuing, with some of that for next year for needed necessary and I know, Dr Schoenfeld talked about that with.

Nicole Minore: within all the return to school.

Nicole Minore: Communication on that's still at a lower level than what we've been at this year, obviously right we're reducing that I just want to make sure I know that a lot of people in the Community had asked about that and inquired about our use of it so it's being.

Nicole Minore: Mindful used but not excessively us it's a reduction from where we were yes Okay, thank you.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Okay, and our athletics, I just wanted to note that in our budget currently at this time we don't include we haven't included any funds for a postseason at this time.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: supplies and equipment, we did include one time costs to furnish an additional fourth grade classroom, so we are going up.

Cheri Rosenblatt: two sections and fourth grade our third grade is going down one, but we still need to furnish a fourth grade class, so we really try to recycle as much furniture, as we can, but we I don't think we've ever had.

Cheri Rosenblatt: principal darling is on as well, but we've never had as many fourth grade sections to be able to call enough furniture to furnish another fourth grade class.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And our other costs are things like legal fees auditing insurance textbooks our PD.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The largest driver of our increase in these other costs is our extended school year program, so this is our for our special ED students, where we run our extended school year program in the summer and the costs have gone up.

Matthew Bonney: Just one thing to point out about this that there's a little ironic, we got more money from the Federal Government this year.

Matthew Bonney: But we need to have an additional lot it because of that federal money now the money we got is a lot more than the.

audit.

Matthew Bonney: The money is causing us to perform another water yes.

Cheri Rosenblatt: that's true a lot of that's related to so there was there's our lunch is now free so it's based on how much federal money you receive, so this is our federal grants or IDA our.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Our titles and our lunch free and reduced lunch claims so as.

Cheri Rosenblatt: All of the meals have been free our lunch claims have increased, and it has increased us to the point where we are subject to a single audit.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So that's an additional audit and it's one of those unfunded mandates i'll call it so we're required to have another audit on our federal monies.

Pam Eptein: Did I just read somewhere that New York State will be reimbursing for the lunches that were distributed during covered.

Pam Eptein: Does that.

Cheri Rosenblatt: mean that.

Cheri Rosenblatt: While the lunches are all free so they've all been supplemented by the usda so nobody is paying for lunches even if you're not.

Cheri Rosenblatt: A free and reduced eligible.

Cheri Rosenblatt: But I believe, on the table, they didn't allow for any costs associated with delivering lunches during coven, so I think they were looking at providing some additional aid for that I don't know if it's past I think that's part of the budget discussion.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Dr Wilson okay.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So this is the anticipated revenues.

Cheri Rosenblatt: um, this is the other side of the budget so as we have discussed in the last, we have our budget, and then we have the revenues to support that budget.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So um I'll go over a few things with this as well, but we're looking at.

Cheri Rosenblatt: A tax levy of 60 million to 76 623, which is our maximum allowable levy and use of reserves to support the 1.73% budget to budget increase next year I'll go through a couple of these items as well, so it makes a little more sense, Dr Wilson, do you want to advance to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So just high level picture, again, the budget is mostly supported by the tax levy it's about 81% supported by the tax levy and then our state aid, and then a few other items help us get to balance our budget on the revenue side.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Could we go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So just to talk about the revenue items a little bit, so the interest on investments or interest rates are decreasing.

Cheri Rosenblatt: A year ago, this time, you know I should say prior to a year ago, this time we were we were getting healthy interest rates and we were able to really maximize our cash flow and really get more interest on our investments.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We after covert hit interest rates went to almost zero, and they have pretty much stayed there at this point so we really don't receive a lot of interesting common fortunately.

Cheri Rosenblatt: tuition we do receive tuition from students that attend our special ED program from other districts, so there is a corresponding cost to that, clearly, because we have educators, that that work.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Educating the students, AIDS and so forth, so it's not pure revenue for us, there are costs associated with that we manage the transportation for other districts this past year we added one more districts so that's why we have an increase in our transportation revenue.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Our state aid so last year when things were a little uncertain the governor would come on.

Cheri Rosenblatt: pretty much every day and we kind of hung on with bated breath to try to understand what was happening with the budget and whether he was going to do some major cuts with state aid.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And a lot of discussions happened and we decided that, in order to prepare and be conservative, we were going to reduce our state aid budget by 20% because there were so much talk that the governor was going to possibly cut.

Cheri Rosenblatt: State aid in the middle of the school year by 20% so we proactively reduce the budget and used fund balance to balance the budget in the event that we would get hit with a mid year reduction in our state aid.

Cheri Rosenblatt: At the end of 2019 2019 2020 school year the State actually on our final payments for that school year withheld 20% on those payments so far this year, they have not we've received all of our state aid to date that we were supposed to.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And they reinstated the 20% that they would help so we're a little better off than we had anticipated so when you look at budget to budget state aid lines to state aid lines from.

Cheri Rosenblatt: It looks like we're going up that's not really the case because we were down 20% last year, so I'm just so everybody's aware we're not getting more state aid it's just the way we budgeted in order to make sure we didn't get hit with a maybe a reduction.

Cheri Rosenblatt: This year.

Pam Eptein: So where did that.

Pam Eptein: Reimbursement have stayed fall did it end up getting put into reserves or did it gave us.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We just received it, you may need additional 20% so we saved it, and when we, you know as we project our year at goes into our population of where we end up so that means we don't use as much as we anticipated because we received additional revenue to supplement that.

Cheri Rosenblatt: are both CS aid again that was also withheld 20% on 1920 and we actually just received the 20% back from 1920 probably two or three days ago.

Cheri Rosenblatt: But this is based off of how much money you spend at Bossi, so if you spend a certain amount, then you get aid it's all expense driven so our projection and what we've.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Both these typically gives us a projection because they're more familiar with what we've been spending, then the governor so we typically.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Take the boss sees a number that boasts these gives us and not the one that's in the executive budget because they're more familiar, so it is going down so we haven't spent as much from 2021 so our stadiums are for both these will be decreasing.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Other revenue items like health services, our facilities Rentals and just other unclassified revenues things like sales tax.

Cheri Rosenblatt: are private school in the district closed, so we cannot build for health services anymore, we don't have a private school in within the district so there's no revenue coming from health services Billings.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The sales tax has been increased, because that Westchester County did increase the sales tax rates so I've increased our budget for.

Cheri Rosenblatt: sales tax, even though that's driven by consumers and economy, I looked at what we got last year, and last year was probably one of the worst year given we were in a pandemic, for the last quarter of the school year and I think where we're comfortable raising that estimate.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So can we go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So just to summarize.

Cheri Rosenblatt: If we don't have any additional staffing request at this time, we would still need to use 650 9891 of reserves to balance our budget and stay within the levy CAP, and we would use the maximum allowable lovey of 60 million.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So that's an estimated percentage increase of 3.3%.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So we can go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So just as a quick summary at a glance prior to any staffing increases the tax levy increase is 3.3% the budget to budget increases 1.73% and the proposed budget is 74 million to 32 661 which includes a use of reserves of.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And the fund balance of 1,980,000 to remain within the tax levy CAP.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So, to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We can round we're going to talk a little bit about additional staffing and program requests, so if we go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So, as I mentioned before, in our prior budget workshop we had projected that we thought we might be going down from 41 sections to 40 total sections at concord road.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And, as I said, this is an iterative process we meet with building administrators multiple times to make sure that we're projecting.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Properly going into the next year, and it is a moving target, sometimes, especially with kindergarten so right now we're still protecting kindergarten to remain at the eight sections.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We constantly monitor what registration packets have been sent out and what has come back so as of March 10 there was 142 registration packets sent out and eight have been returned so we're still staying with eight sections of kindergarten at this time.

Cheri Rosenblatt: First grade is projected to go down to sections, from nine to seven.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Second grade this we revised so we originally had thought we were going to remain at the eight sections of second grade.

Cheri Rosenblatt: But then, as we started looking at the class size, we really started to see we were pushing up to the very top of the class size.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And Ardsley typically gets some movements during the school year it's a normal course.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So the concern was that we could really be pushing the class size over the policy and we would have some very crowded second grade classes, so we added back an additional section of second grade so in total we're remaining at 41 sections.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So, as I mentioned before, third grade is going down one section and fourth grade is going up to so since we're shifting the furniture from one third grade class to fourth.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We are still need to furnish one fourth grade class because we we've never had, I believe, nine sections of fourth grade, so we don't have that furniture, that we could add another fourth grade section.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So for just for staffing request for concord road we're looking to increase our fizz ED position up point to.

Cheri Rosenblatt: As a result of implementation of a new physical education plan to meet updated standards for daily and weekly requirements for the primary grades and we're looking for adding for teaching assistance to the first and second grade to provide additional supports for the.

Cheri Rosenblatt: school year, so I don't know if either Dr Wilson or principal darling have anything they may want to add with respect to that.

Frank Hariton: I have a question Okay, in the past, one of the issues with enrollment at concord road and with adding sections was the stress on the facilities available for specials like visit and art.

Frank Hariton: And where are we on that.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So I think principal darling could probably speak to that I don't know if she's.

Jennifer Darling: yeah no um because we've had this section numbers are rolling up we're okay right now with our number of specials it what starts to happen is sometimes in kindergarten when we've had almost 11 sections one year, that is where it started to.

Jennifer Darling: affect specials so right now we are.

it's.

Frank Hariton: Okay, I mean it's like we don't need an extra four tenths of an art teacher and there's no art room.

Frank Hariton: For that, for them.

Frank Hariton: or something like that okay yeah.

Jennifer Darling: Just the increase in the physical education would be.

helpful.

Cheri Rosenblatt: yeah I don't know Dr Wilson, do you want to add.

Duncan Wilson: yeah I can add the they're shifting requirements in physical education and what we're looking to do is look at what we learned this year with the movement breaks and realize that with that extra point to we'll have time for.

Duncan Wilson: Daily movement breaks in K through two is our goal for next year will be piloting that to meet the daily physical educate new daily physical education requirements.

Duncan Wilson: So, and the teaching assistance is really looking at shoring up some of the workshop models that we're doing, knowing that with our youngest students that more time working in workshop model, both for reading and math over the course of the year will help with.

Duncan Wilson: The kind of recovery from covert that we're that we're anticipating over the over the course of the over the course of the year, particularly for.

Duncan Wilson: kids who are in K this year and kids who were in first grade this year so that's why we're looking at first and second grade as the target areas for that.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We can advance to the next.

Teresa Quackenbush: One quick question.

Teresa Quackenbush: yeah the cost for the.

Teresa Quackenbush: 177 for the additional teaching assistants, the health care costs that would potentially come up that is embedded in the earlier slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: that's embedded in that number in the 177 so I I look at an average I don't budget for a family plan for every teaching assistant, because I really have no idea with an unknown position, so I take an average and added in.

Teresa Quackenbush: Okay, so that is included there okay.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Good there yeah.

Okay.

Let me go to the next one great.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So the staffing request for the middle school is request for a point six teacher that's a reading interventionists it's needed to support reading needs of both general and special education students and I'll let principal Horn lacquer and.

Cheri Rosenblatt: assistant superintendent Virginia.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Maybe elaborate a little bit more on the request.

Jeanne Farruggio: Of course, of course, Thank you and good evening everyone, so we took a close look at some data from multiple sources in order to determine this need.

Jeanne Farruggio: We looked at the most recent la map test scores, first and foremost for grades four through eight for meaning the incoming.

Jeanne Farruggio: Fourth graders rising fifth graders we also took a look at students requiring a is students in supported classes or co taught classes in our core classes at the middle school.

Jeanne Farruggio: We looked at the reading needs of incoming fifth graders and we definitely took note of the more intensive needs of students who are moving into the district.

Jeanne Farruggio: We also looked at the increased referrals to the instructional support team which are warranting rti or multi tiered systems of support at this time, during the course of this year.

Jeanne Farruggio: And we also looked at increased referrals to special education greatly impacting the special needs programs so, for this reason.

Jeanne Farruggio: With the data collected here, we felt that it was warranted to increase the reading intervention is support at the middle school currently we have a point for.

Jeanne Farruggio: Literacy person, and we also have a point five Wilson reading person, but given the needs identified needs of our students, we felt that this was clearly strongly warranted.

Jeanne Farruggio: Mr Horlacher.

Stu Horlacher - Ardsley Middle School: Now, thanks gene and so yeah a few years ago we excuse me, we restructured, one of our sixth grade reading, writing sections, so that afforded us the ability to work.

Stu Horlacher - Ardsley Middle School: That particular teacher to work with just not just that one class, but to spread out and this year that particular teacher worked with seven different sections of the seven sections of reading and sixth grade.

Stu Horlacher - Ardsley Middle School: It was all done through zoom but she would she worked with those students, one on one conferencing text analysis and really just small group work.

Stu Horlacher - Ardsley Middle School: And it really has that been acting as a resource as well for the teachers for our teachers in sixth grade and in fifth grade.

Stu Horlacher - Ardsley Middle School: Just with lesson planning ideas and the goal would be to expand that position from just sixth grade and those sections to another great and fifth grade like Jeanne was saying to.

Stu Horlacher - Ardsley Middle School: really focus on his fifth and sixth graders I'm just not more often, but more students as well and it's a it's a model that we already have in place and it's one, we would like to expand to to 1.0.

Nicole Minore: sounds like.

Nicole Minore: Like the concord road request, this is it can support some of the needs that we're seeing coming from you know some dips potentially but it's also really something that is intended to be a.

Nicole Minore: permanent position that remains, and support for this this grade level those grade levels correct.

Jeanne Farruggio: Absolutely, yes.

Stu Horlacher - Ardsley Middle School: Thank you.

there's no other questions, we can go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: High School we're looking at a point five science to support projected earth science and physics classes classes I'm going to ask principal to kowtow to provide a little more information, with respect to that request.

Danielle Trippodo: Thank you, so this year, we have an extra physics section that is already being taught, meaning that our one of our teachers is teaching an extra section of physics, due to the large numbers of physics, and these are students who came from chemistry.

Danielle Trippodo: into the physics honors physics ap physics regions physics I'm sorry not honors physics ap regions, and we also have a quantitative physics course.

Danielle Trippodo: We are expected to have the same projected numbers next year and in following years as the class sizes coming from the middle school.

Danielle Trippodo: And the grades below will be projected to be the same around 180 we also have a large cohort of juniors this year, taking chemistry classes and they are expected on their pathway to complete a four year sequence of.

Danielle Trippodo: Sun, so they would most likely branch into physics on either regions level ap level, and we also had.

Danielle Trippodo: You know, we had one section of ap physics, last year we could have easily had to so we had to defer those students to be able to take physics this year.

Danielle Trippodo: And with our science sections it's the numbers coming from the middle school, we would need an extra section of earth science.

Danielle Trippodo: And both of our current art science teachers currently have full schedules and are projected to maintain their full schedules for next year.

Danielle Trippodo: That science can be very tricky because the certifications are very specific to the content areas, so we do need to look for specific certifications when we are working with our science teachers.

Nicole Minore: The intent is to also use this this additional.

Nicole Minore: half empty, for helping with some I know, there was the stress with the a piece of this year, and there was a lot of demand for it, that we really couldn't fulfill So hopefully create a little bit more flexibility for some of our students, as we go forward to yes.

Danielle Trippodo: That that would be the plan on some of our science teachers already have multiple science content certifications so with the additional point five.

Danielle Trippodo: We could make sure that those two sections were covered and or shift the teaching the content areas around as needed because we do have several teachers with those multiple certifications.

Nicole Minore: Right, thank you.

Thank you.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So for curriculum these aren't exactly staffing request there a stipend for a equity leader and funds for an Ai tutor.

Cheri Rosenblatt: program to facilitate summer credit recovery so I'm going to ask Dr Wilson, to provide a little more information, with respect to these requests.

Duncan Wilson: Certainly I'll start with the I tutor because I think it builds on the theme from some of the other requests we're anticipating this year, particularly.

Duncan Wilson: That kids who are struggling at the secondary level so that could be seventh or eighth graders or could be ninth through 12th graders may need to recover credits.

Duncan Wilson: Over the summer, because of academic failure, well, I know both teams are doing everything to keep those low, we want to have an option that's there for students.

Duncan Wilson: so that they can continue moving forward the following year, the equity later as part of the developing equity vision.

Duncan Wilson: The term leader really comes from because it's similar to a curriculum leader, but instead of having their focus, be a curriculum area like science or social studies.

Duncan Wilson: This person or persons, if it were divided into would focus on working on issues of equity and diversity across the three schools we've started to do work.

Duncan Wilson: In all three buildings it's happening at the ppl T level in the buildings but we really feel that we need more help with coordinating it at a district level and also with the Community, so we think it's a great opportunity to continue the good work that we've been doing in this space.

Nicole Minore: Just make a note with regard to the equity leader stipend This is also something that we've been discussing and curriculum committee myself and interesting quackenbush and.

Nicole Minore: This is also something that is becoming a pretty consistent position of some sort that is appearing in schools in Westchester and people are committing to this in a meaningful way so.

Nicole Minore: This is not an unusual and a great step for Ardsley to kind of enhance their commitment and integrate what's necessary through curriculum initiatives and seo.

Cheri Rosenblatt: move to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So for athletics we're looking to reinstate the modified sports programs for all teams, with the exception of a reduction.

Cheri Rosenblatt: from two teams each to one team each for volleyball and boys basketball and we're also looking for varsity assistance for additional safety.

Cheri Rosenblatt: assistance with offseason training and workouts and provide individualized supports for both boys and girls soccer and baseball and softball so I'm going to ask Mr Rampone to provide a little more information, with respect to these requests.

Michael Ramponi: Thank you, sherry um yeah I think it's important to the Community that you we reinstate the modified sports program I know.

Michael Ramponi: People were definitely upset last year when we had to cut it wasn't necessary cut for unusual times.

Michael Ramponi: We are we were fortunate, though, that most schools, do not get a chance to run modified programs this year due to the coven situation, so we were a little bit ahead of the curve there but bringing them back, I think, is an important thing to this community, we did.

Michael Ramponi: reduce the two teams, where we had two teams for girls volleyball and two teams for boys basketball those numbers.

Michael Ramponi: The we do get a large amount of kids that try out for those teams, so it is nice to have a second team for those programs but.

Michael Ramponi: You know, as far as it's not necessarily necessary.

Michael Ramponi: There's other way to meet those needs, and a lot of it really comes down to do we want to provide as many kids as we can with an opportunity to participate.

Michael Ramponi: Or do you really want to start to get more competitive at that level, I mean that's just sort of a philosophy thing but.

Michael Ramponi: it's I would say comparatively across the county as far as having two teams, there is half, I would say it's about half the schools that offer to volleyball teams or two basketball teams.

Michael Ramponi: Which it's a nice luxury to have that we offered in the past, but I don't think it's 100% necessary for this Community, but again that's something that.

Michael Ramponi: You know, we could always look into it after this year with not having reinstating those two programs the varsity assistance for us.

Michael Ramponi: Really, you know as sherry stated and it's written there you know, safety is always our biggest concern when we travel to a way sites with one coach say example for.

Michael Ramponi: boys varsity soccer game, here we have 24 kids are some are so you know give or take you know a few there are, and we have our.

Michael Ramponi: You know, coaches by themselves, who was working to coach the game they have to deal with your bench there could be injuries with her often are.

Michael Ramponi: We had a you know unfortunate situation, a few years ago, or even had a student on the sideline have a stroke, towards the end of the game and the coaches by themselves.

Michael Ramponi: yeah that's obviously an outlier but we've had situations, this year, where you know the varsity basketball game or a kid basically broke his leg during the game and coaches by themselves, but it puts us in a tough situation.

Michael Ramponi: And again when you're coaching and you're by yourself it's hard to monitor what's going on to your kids, especially when we're on the road at home, you know I'm here for a lot of that.

Michael Ramponi: And you know we have jv coaches around, but when we're traveling I think it's super important that we do start to.

Michael Ramponi: You know, add these assistance, I would say in our Conference, not that this is, you know that important, but we are the only school in Westchester incompetency that do not offer for our CSS and send those for sports, there are a couple of schools in our conference that do not offer.

Michael Ramponi: soccer and baseball softball systems, but they're not in Westchester County.

Michael Ramponi: So it's you know and there's other things there that are luxury items like offseason training and workouts and provide providing individual support, whether it be if you're you know again sticking to the theme of soccer.

Michael Ramponi: You know there's offensive defensive midfield if you go to the sport of baseball softball you have pictures, you have infield you have our feeling, you have you know hitting you have situational type stuff so again, you know safety being the biggest.

Michael Ramponi: You know, really reason why I think we need to start to move in this direction and then me kind of pushing our coaches to provide as much offseason workouts for our kids to improve.

Michael Ramponi: And then also some more individualized specific coaching for those programs, and it just would also, in my personal opinion would.

Michael Ramponi: Add to the continuity of our programs if a coach decides to leave or a coach you know needs to leave for whatever reason, we have a coach that's in the program and knows how to do it.

Michael Ramponi: You know the right way and the high expectations that we have for varsity programs so it's kind of just sums it up.

yeah.

Thank you.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Okay, so can we go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So just to summarize concord road we're looking at an estimated cost of 201,000 Ardsley middle 67,000.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The high school 56,000 and district curriculum 28,000 so a total of 350 2000 and then the addition of the modified sports and the varsity assistant coaches were at another 95,800 so the total ads for staffing and program would be 440 7800.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So this is what the anticipated expenditures for the budget would look like after we add in all the staffing and district requests.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So would be an additional 440 7800 added to the budget prior to staffing, which would bring the total budget to 74,680,000 461 which would be a 2.34% increase budget to budget.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The 440 7800 is an additional point six 1%.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: On the revenue side, we would still be at the maximum allowable levy of 16 million.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We would need to add an additional 440 7800 of reserves to balance the budget.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Just to summarize with all staffing requests.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We are tax levy increase would still be at the 3.3%, which is the maximum allowable tax levy.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The budget to budget increase would be 2.34% and the total proposed budget would be at 74,980,000 461 so this would include additional reserves of 1 million 1076 91 and the fund balance of 1,000,009 at to remain within the tax levy CAP.

Nicole Minore: Is the Rosenblatt the tax levy it's 3.3 not three six is that right it's.

Cheri Rosenblatt: For the tax obvious 3.3.

Nicole Minore: Okay, it says it at the bottom at a 3.6 on the prior slide so I just want to make sure I'm not.

Nicole Minore: crazy.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Oh I'm sorry yes I'll fix that.

Nicole Minore: I should have caught that.

Cheri Rosenblatt: I didn't even see it.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Right right.

Cheri Rosenblatt: That's a typo.

Pam Eptein: Okay 3.3% plus do you have a chart of our reserves and where they stand right now.

Pam Eptein: The amount that we've increased or decreased.

Pam Eptein: For the year rather than projected the actual so far.

Cheri Rosenblatt: or this year or for well the financial statements I don't have one handy right now but I the financial statements I have the actual reserves as of June 30 2021 2020 I'm sorry.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And then, based on our projection we would we would need to do a projection after we have our projection like I don't I'm not sure.

Pam Eptein: i'm just questioning whether we could look at.

Pam Eptein: The amount that we will need to actually take our reserves for this year versus the projection given that we're now in.

Pam Eptein: march so we've had a good amount of the year I'm just curious if you've done any analysis on rather than projected where we actually have needed to utilize reserves.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Well, we won't know what we use, we need to use until the end of the year, until we close the books fully like actual but we project throughout the year, where we think we're going to be as a June 30 2021.

Pam Eptein: Is your monthly analysis that.

Cheri Rosenblatt: I'm I believe I, provided that to the board.

Cheri Rosenblatt: On Friday, the most recent one.

Pam Eptein: Is there something that.

Pam Eptein: Perhaps I'll schedule.

sure.

Matthew Bonney: These numbers, the numbers are very preliminary um if we said it was the end of February that's nice it's not gonna look prettier because we have heating bills.

Matthew Bonney: So I was the next quarter could look better so you know it's not like we have a 12 year level field we're a financial statements.

Matthew Bonney: it's a it's a it's a 10 month nine month financial statement.

Matthew Bonney: And you know right now we're to junior end, and right now we've paid a lot of heat electric that we're not going to pay, hopefully in April May and June and we don't know when we come back to school if we're going to have more costs with teachers and not so.

Matthew Bonney: There's a projected one that we run year round, after the closing of each month, but they're not by any means audited or official.

yeah.

Cheri Rosenblatt: yeah I think that's a good point things change every month, so we update with the information that we know.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And then the next month, like with students coming back to school, five days a week, we still don't know the full financial impact of that yet so things could change.

Pam Eptein: Right and, likewise, we just released were receiving significant amount of money, as you just stated back from the State.

Pam Eptein: So I'm just curious where our fund balance will be.

Pam Eptein: projected and obviously we're going to have a.

Pam Eptein: A lot of costs associated with going back you know in person and getting the classrooms ready, but I'm just I'm just trying to get a better sense of actual versus projected so I can I can.

Pam Eptein: Save that for different time perhaps meet with you privately.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Okay, so I'm the.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So this is added glances the 3.3 on the I'll make that correction, on the other one the budget to budget is the 2.34 and we would need to use additional reserves up 1,000,001 oh seven 671 and the fund balance of 1.898 to remain within that levy CAP.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So we can go to the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So just some next steps in the budget development, we would need to finalize that additional staffing and other requests and some program needs.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The Board of education would need to make a determination on the final tax levy so right now the maximum allowable tax levy.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Is that 3.3% and a decision on the use of the reserves to balance the budget and the next meeting is April six, which is our public budget work session, which is the superintendent's recommended budget.

Cheri Rosenblatt: April 20 is the board budget adoption and may 4 is the end of school district budget hearing.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So just to give everybody an idea of what impact the tax levy would have on the projected tax rate.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So with both scenarios without staffing and with all staffing, we are using the maximum allowable levy, so the impact on the tax rate would be the same.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The assessed value as of March 8 this came from the assessor's office in the town of greenberg so this would be a projected tax rate at the tax levy of 60 million to 76 623 it would be attached rate of 22.82, which is an increase of 22.74% from the.

Cheri Rosenblatt: tax rate.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So again, this is not, this is an assessed value that's as of March 8 and the assessed value will change it's more than likely it'll change when the tax rate is that in August.

Pam Eptein: As i'm sorry this version has greenberg i'm given the districts any further information about Tyler technologies and when if that reassessments moving forward and the impact to the schools.

Cheri Rosenblatt: I see bad, but I will follow up for you.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The budget Code and the board of education elections is Tuesday may 18 these are one of the times of the polls at Berkeley high school.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And the next slide.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So if there are any questions we post everything to the Ardsley school's website, or you can email budget and arts and school staff or.

Nicole Minore: Thank you very much, Ms Rosenblatt.

Matthew Bonney: Dr Schoenfeld any comments from you.

Ryan Schoenfeld: But just Thank you to everyone that's been part of this, I also appreciate the work.

Ryan Schoenfeld: That again our administrators have gone to look closely at what we're doing over the past couple years I've come Ardsley we've looked closely at our budget.

Ryan Schoenfeld: We're lucky to have Assistant Superintendent Rosenblatt again is looking very closely at things and over time we've put systems in place.

Ryan Schoenfeld: To have some checks and balances also as we again continue with the budget development we continually sharpen our pencils look closer at things look at any new adjustments and make those school budgets are complicated.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And some things that appear to be simpler under like simple solutions it's not that simple.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And our board as well we appreciate.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Historically, our board looks at what we're doing and as part of the conversation and again, you can tell by the engagement with questions tonight.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And again I'm sure we'll have some questions from our Community, transparency is important so.

Ryan Schoenfeld: We streamline the asks I'll say this year so recognizing again coming from cooperative will take some time to again rebound we also in and I recognize as much as you.

Ryan Schoenfeld: The school district is really a highlight of our Community and many people hold in high regard as I do.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And, and we really want to maintain our programs that's what we often talk about so when we're asking for things it's things that we feel would be appropriate and things that again keep our district and a high standing and meet the needs of our Community.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So we appreciate your engagement and.

Ryan Schoenfeld: I just wanted to call out that a lot of people are again part of this, and we appreciate the presentation tonight, I also know, we have.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Our administrative Center around this virtual zoom and they probably resume and most of the day, so.

Ryan Schoenfeld: we'll ask you to.

Ryan Schoenfeld: To leave at this time, if you'd like and we appreciate you being here, are there any questions before our administrators, but you have any specific things that might have popped up after that I want to thank everyone.

Matthew Bonney: Okay, thank you very much to our administrators.

Jeanne Farruggio: Thank you have a good evening.

Matthew Bonney: Good evening.

Michael Ramponi: Second, if I If I could just thank the board for approving the high risk sports all is going well so far and it's really a wonderful thing to see these kids out here.

Michael Ramponi: are spending a lot of time out there and stuff but uh the kids are definitely excited and and stephanie.

Michael Ramponi: added some life to the building and you could just tell that it's really important to these kids to be participating pay to be parts of spinning again, so thank you for approving your high risk sports we greatly appreciate it.

Matthew Bonney: Mr Rampone we're happy.

Matthew Bonney: we're not happy to say, but.

Matthew Bonney: Our decision to not have modified didn't have a negative effect because we may not have had it anyway, but we're looking forward to them coming back next year.

Matthew Bonney: Okay, Dr Schoenfeld it's time for the report of the superintendent do you have any else tell us.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Just a reminder that excitement or enthusiasm that was mentioned it, I think I share in the excitement to have students on campus more of our students safely on a regular basis.

Ryan Schoenfeld: The registration open for the last I'll say the last registration in Ardsley I don't plan for us to have this type of registration like we did during Clovis.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So we are having the registration that opened yesterday about I think it was in the afternoon that's open for parents to register all of their children.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So that we have all students accounted for, regardless of the situation or the placement, you were in during the third 10 week period of time.

Ryan Schoenfeld: That will be open for one week it will close on Sunday march 21 at 11:59pm at that time we'll be able to follow up if anyone didn't do their homework assignment of registering i'm hopeful that everyone complete set on time, however, will contact you if we need to.

Ryan Schoenfeld: During that time also we have spring break coming up on the 27th.

Ryan Schoenfeld: By the 26 I told the Faculty and staff, we would give them.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Again, an understanding of what their classes would be like especially elementary we can easily this aggregate that so we'll be looking at that data will be sharing it with each.

Ryan Schoenfeld: School so that they can plan accordingly during the spring break from the 27th of April 4, we will have our barriers for men.

Ryan Schoenfeld: We need to put desks in classrooms of rearrange furniture prepare our lunch areas and areas that we haven't used as much or plan to use.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So we'll be able to adjust them prepare so that, once we come back after spring break, there will be an adjustment that there will be more furniture.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And barriers and classrooms, however, will be starting on April 19 and that pause I'll just remind you we're pausing at that time partially.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And it comes at a good time now that they're opening up some of the travel restrictions and needs to quarantine after April 1.

Ryan Schoenfeld: In the domestic you know travel, so we will be issuing that travel advisory now but starting on April 19 gives us two weeks prior to any travel.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Recognizing we're still going to be safe, as we care and love our Community it's important to travel and be safe, if you do.

Ryan Schoenfeld: I don't necessarily encourage travel, but if you do follow the guidelines be safe, and then we will be coming back again with more students on campus safely on Monday, the 19th.

Ryan Schoenfeld: I also just had one reminder we'll be sending out a blast we've held to roundtables and I know we have to trust these that have attended them.

Ryan Schoenfeld: roundtables with parents, one of them with our younger parents okay one in two students, we held that on the Third, I believe it was and then again on the 10th we had a meeting with our.

Ryan Schoenfeld: With our remote parents and I might be mixing up the date so apologize if I do, but we met with our remote parents as well, and that was on the 10th.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And the remote parents were middle school and high school and it was amazing to have again these conversations and times to listen to what they were sharing.

Ryan Schoenfeld: But talking about their perspective, their experience their children's and experiencing giving us thoughtful feedback about.

Ryan Schoenfeld: As we come back to school on campus safely with more students, how can we help facilitate the integration of a student who has not stepped on campus all year long.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And how can we do that, how can we have our youngest learners come on campus and not have to look at a screen all day long.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So it was really insightful and we're holding another meeting tomorrow night with our elementary parents and we could have these meetings.

Ryan Schoenfeld: We just chose some of the areas that we felt we needed to know a little bit more about as we entered into the last 10 weeks, but we'll be meeting with elementary remote parents.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Five days a week, so that invite will go out, I presume, will have again anywhere from 25 to 50 parents or more.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And we have some breakout opportunities, and then we have some question Q and a and reporting out, and I think it's been very insightful.

Ryan Schoenfeld: there's trustee Quackenbush your trust inventory want to add anything just to that experience I know unity to is what trustee Qackenbush has talked about it gets us unified and be able to listen and work together is there anything you'd like to add just in conclusion in my report.

Teresa Quackenbush: trustee minority seniority again if you'd like to go first.

Nicole Minore: Or that it may.

Nicole Minore: I might steal something you.

Nicole Minore: said, the last time that we were on with our all remote parents, which is that we also really want to give a lot of credit to our students who are.

Nicole Minore: who have been sticking with us and hanging in there and it hasn't been easy and.

Nicole Minore: I found the sessions in incredibly informative so I'm really grateful for the Community dialing into those and giving us their thoughts and just in terms of us.

Nicole Minore: Being able to you know, think about it, more broadly, and make sure that we're considering all the different viewpoints everyone's child and everyone's interaction is different, it was very helpful, so thank you everybody.

Teresa Quackenbush: I agree, I think the conversations are important, and I think in the past year, with everyone in survival mode I think there's sometimes an assumption made that we're not hearing each other.

Teresa Quackenbush: And that's certainly not the intent, we welcome feedback we need feedback, I think it helps drive solution and helps us come up with actionable plans so I'm happy that we're continuing the conversations.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Thank you so that will be tomorrow night elementary parents of remote students five days a week, at 7pm Dr Wilson I coin, Dr zoom.

Ryan Schoenfeld: he'll help us with that meeting, and all the little intricacies he's a great facilitator, I really appreciate this leadership and support during that time, thank you.

Matthew Bonney: Okay next is the report to the board President, and that was Dr zoom not Dr doom, you know anything bad about that well.

Matthew Bonney: I don't really have much seven to thank everybody ministrations and I, my board for getting us so a step closer to opening schools in the middle of April.

Matthew Bonney: And our report of board committees, our contract committee which is trustee hired I've been working on some of the June 30 contracts will.

Matthew Bonney: they're closed items when the negotiations are done we'll let you know we've done but we're moving in the right direction, the district and trusting Epstein and I are on the Finance Committee and we've worked very closely with a superintendent Rosenblatt and Dr. Schoenfeld.

Matthew Bonney: To get us to this budget presentation and I can say from all the years I've been on the board, I think we're further along in Bali need tire board in the in the process, this is a process that started a year ago.

Matthew Bonney: For me to budget but we're much further along as a board than we've ever been and.

Matthew Bonney: was more eyes on and more scrutiny and we're moving forward so when you saw our presentation tonight, I do have any of the committee reports.

Matthew Bonney: know.

Matthew Bonney: Any other board analysis discussion items that we want to bring to the public tonight.

Matthew Bonney: No good no all right consent agenda.

Matthew Bonney: Items 14 a B, C D.

Matthew Bonney: c been approved these the district wide safety plan the update that we talked about before.

Matthew Bonney: c D E, F and G.

Matthew Bonney: 15 see is a board policy, the first reading on school safety plans with TD is allocation title one part A funds in the district first reading.

Matthew Bonney: He is procurement uniform grant guidance for federal awards, the first reading a student grading information systems first reading and extracurricular activity fun or first reading we have 16 A, B and C 16 see is our donations.

Matthew Bonney: we'd like to thank the RC panther booster club an email at \$650 us towards the purchase of athletics supplies to the rnc high school.

Matthew Bonney: we'd like to thank your donation to the RC PTA and the amount of \$5,823 and 13 cents to be used towards wellness we could concord road.

Matthew Bonney: And another donation of our PTA and the amount of \$7,000 you'd sort of see Ardsley High School speaker series We thank the PTA for their hard work in this time.

Matthew Bonney: Any discussion.

Frank Hariton: We need emotion.

Frank Hariton: Consent agenda.

Matthew Bonney: In discussing mode motion.

Frank Hariton: A consent agenda.

Second.

Teresa Quackenbush: A second.

Matthew Bonney: Any discussion.

Matthew Bonney: take that as a no.

Matthew Bonney: All in favor.

Aye.

Matthew Bonney: Our future board meetings our next meeting will be April six, which will be our superintendents recommend recommendation on our public budget work session.

Matthew Bonney: I'm, not to speak prematurely we're hoping to all be together in the same room that day, but will work out State law and cross our fingers and our first board meeting, at least where we can be together we'll see what the state says about the.

Matthew Bonney: about an audience I'm finally have the recognition of our audience.

Donna Accurso: Okay, thank you, so the first question.

Donna Accurso: Is from Danielle and John Lee their parents have a kindergartener hello, and thank you in advance for addressing our beloved questions and concerns.

Donna Accurso: We are very happy that children will now be able to attend school in person, five days per week and appreciate the time and effort being put into making this happen.

Donna Accurso: We are glad that all obviously school districts students will be given this opportunity but Jewish the youngest most dependent children would have been phased in sooner.

Donna Accurso: Each day, a five year old spends on a computer all day is a day too long, it is frustrating after advocating for our youngest most dependent learners since the summer to not have them prioritized in any way all school year.

Donna Accurso: It was stated in the recent webinar that the lunch recess P block will be challenging with the increase of student attendance at concord road school and that the block may need to be shortened.

Donna Accurso: The children.

Donna Accurso: At CRS continue to not receive P as a special and so their recess P time for movement and play is especially important.

Donna Accurso: Is there anything else that may be done beside shortening their lunch recess P, Dr Schoenfeld stated that it is not fiscally responsible for our the school district to rent tense.

Donna Accurso: Would it be possible to rent tense for just CRS, since this is where there seems to be the most capacity issues.

Donna Accurso: tense, will help to maximize the use of outdoor space for the last 10 weeks of school, they could create daily outdoor dining space for lunch and snack time, along with opportunities for outdoor learning space on days when rain or sun can prevent this.

Donna Accurso: The question of screen time and chromebook usage has been asked several times over the past several weeks.

Donna Accurso: What is the district's plan to lessen screen time in the classroom at the elementary level as children returned to in person learning will work boards in the classroom be ending when students return to in person learning, it would be great to have a clear answer on this.

Donna Accurso: Lastly, it will be extremely challenging for teachers to continue meeting the needs of all remote students, while managing nearly an entire class of in person learners, especially at the elementary level.

Donna Accurso: If all if they all remote enrollment is low, will it be reconsidered to have teachers or other support staff who are dedicated to groups of all remote students for the last 10 weeks of school, at least at the elementary level.

Donna Accurso: As an educator I do you feel a change in teacher at this point in the school year will not be easy, but I know that the time and attention to a dedicated all remote teacher could provide.

Donna Accurso: Well, what the what is best for both remote and in person learners have ardsley school district teacher has been given the opportunity to weigh in on the decision to continue with a hybrid approach or in person and all remote students continue to learn synchronously Thank you.

Ryan Schoenfeld: talk to us, and I know a couple of these things you may be able to speak about.

Ryan Schoenfeld: With.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Physical Education and sense we've.

got.

Duncan Wilson: Some some of these dancers, we know we're still working on and we want to get the plan when Mr Charlie mentioned that the lunch recess block was shortened we're really looking at trying to shorten the lunch period.

Duncan Wilson: But the corresponding recess block may need to be shortened a bit, but we're also maintaining the movement breaks and teachers will also have the ability to take kids outside so we're hoping that overall we're not seeing a real disruption there.

Duncan Wilson: With regard to chromebooks we heard loud and clear at the at the meeting, and I think two things really need to happen is, we need to clarify how technology is being used and how it is also not being used, currently, to the extent that some parents, believe that it is.

Duncan Wilson: And I think the good news, out of that feedback and out of the out of the dialogue that we've had with parents is I think we're going to have a clear vision of technology use.

Duncan Wilson: In the in the elementary school at different grade levels going forward, so I think, in the end, this has been a challenging time but we'll get.

Duncan Wilson: A clear vision of what's appropriate there.

Duncan Wilson: I'm forgetting the third piece I apologize, but maybe you can come to me, and I can get.

Ryan Schoenfeld: The third piece I think we've discussed at different times to it, some.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Remote only yet or in the last 10 weeks, we have a hybrid model we're not planning to shift the hybrid model to have.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Students, which I think within the question was mentioned to remove a student from a class and have a designated teacher teach them remotely at this juncture we've set up a hybrid model that allows us to ship, and you know how we construct in and being very inclusive of all students.

Duncan Wilson: yeah.

Duncan Wilson: Again I think it's a mischaracterization to think that the remote learners are somehow detracting from.

Duncan Wilson: The kids in class we've done a great job and our teachers have done a phenomenal job in reaching students in multiple modalities, we know it's difficult and we know that balance is going to shift.

Duncan Wilson: But I think as the educator question the apparent from an educator said it would be very disruptive to take a youngster away from his or her class at this point in the year I think if we came up with a plan, where the kids returning to.

Duncan Wilson: School we're going to go to different classes we'd be reached with equal outrage and I think that we are a community that values community, and I think we live those values with our with our with our classrooms.

Duncan Wilson: So the teachers have had a chance to weigh in on this process and part of the planning that's going on is them understanding the different types of transitions.

Duncan Wilson: That will take place as we return to five days a week.

Duncan Wilson: A lot of that work has really been around how kids will be grouped how sharing of materials will evolve and how things will look more and more normal as we, as we move into spring, so I think.

Duncan Wilson: Again, give us a chance as our plan laid out that after April 7 is darling will do a good President of full presentation of all those things that were asked in that question, and I think you'll see that are planning a sound.

Ryan Schoenfeld: The other one I'll just touch upon is the idea of tense we've looked at this and we priced it out.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Being fiscally responsible it doesn't mean that there couldn't be some benefit to having tense, however we've been we've had discussions with building leaders, including a concord road having a tent.

Ryan Schoenfeld: On campus takes up some of that campus room we're hopeful again to have a spring into summer that's dryer that's you know moderate temperatures.

Ryan Schoenfeld: However, when weather is nice, we can always bring the students outside if it be for eating and or play and or class none we still have that as an option.

Ryan Schoenfeld: If we were to use a tent for lunch time inspire a smaller group of individuals, where we have some other plans.

Ryan Schoenfeld: in place and, most recently, too, because we're continually finding other ways to optimize what we're doing.

Ryan Schoenfeld: I know, building administration is looking at some ways to support lunches which may free up some space within the gymnasium which we typically haven't had so that will provide some new opportunities to without you know, putting tense up.

Ryan Schoenfeld: But nothing is the other.

Duncan Wilson: table yeah I guess the other logistical detail as we've explored the tents, especially unconquered road is.

Duncan Wilson: anywhere, you would put a tent is also a place where kids are playing and so we're constantly looking at places of.

Duncan Wilson: In order to gain 10 space we would lose other space and the other thing from a safety perspective, this is a formal former principal speaking.

Duncan Wilson: tense are actually have hazards that are that that also take up more space, because of the way they're anchored into the ground.

Duncan Wilson: or their braced there's often hazards around the tense, so you end up having to sort of coordinate off and even larger area.

Duncan Wilson: For from a safety perspective so when we looked at that on any of the on the blacktop surfaces because putting tense on grass at this point would also be impractical.

Duncan Wilson: That we just didn't come up with a configuration that actually really improved the situation so again, I really appreciate the questions and.

Duncan Wilson: We are trying to be as creative as you guys are in the solutions, but we really just didn't find one that was that really made more sense than what we're doing without tense.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Thank you, you could continue.

Donna Accurso: Okay, thank you, the next question comes from Erica rosenfeld apparent have to eighth graders.

Donna Accurso: For each of the general categories in the budget presentation, for example, salaries benefits technology transportation building and grounds, what are the a 2019 2020 actually and be the latest 20 2021 projection that's a more relevant baseline than 2020 2021 budget, thank you.

Donna Accurso: that's it for her question.

Ryan Schoenfeld: This is rosenberg do you want to speak to the.

Cheri Rosenblatt: yeah we have the actual out on the website on page 23 of our financial statements, so that has our.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Actual expenditures on the website, the 1920 school year was a bit of an anomaly, because we were close well we didn't have in person on campus learning from March to June, so it was a little bit of an anomaly.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So I don't know about the baseline for 1920.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The projection we update our projection as we mentioned prior every month and the Board is presented with the projection.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And, as we said it it's changes day by day with the coded.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And as we start to bring students back, we have some unknowns that we're working on trying to project.

Matthew Bonney: yeah I can certainly add to that that certainly the 12 the 12 months ended June 3019 don't look anything like the 12 months ending 20 or 21 they were expenses that we didn't pay in the year in June 3020.

Matthew Bonney: That actually paid F and negotiation in the next school year so it's very hard to compare actual expenses from year to year because you'll get you'll get a really bad result because 2021 looks doesn't look good and.

Matthew Bonney: What do you compare it to 2020.

Nicole Minore: I think it's fair to say there's a lot of variables from multiple recent years being taken into account in this budget planning process but also it's just fair to note that, while we plan the next year's budget.

Nicole Minore: Based on how state formulas run and how we're held to actually produce a budget and we actually have to tie it physically to the year prior for a number of reasons.

Nicole Minore: Why they use those baseline numbers in our formulas so as rosenblatt was saying we actually have to leverage those numbers in a way, so.

Nicole Minore: knowing full well there's a number of caveats and I think she must have a list of caveats that's beyond my screen space here.

Nicole Minore: That that we're, taking into account, I mean it's certainly well thought, but you know, in terms of the question, but if there are number of variables from multiple years that are being taken into account with us.

Donna Accurso: Okay, thank you, the next submission is from Susan Parker a parent of an eighth and 10th grader.

Donna Accurso: She writes either low questions for tonight's meeting number one last year we were preparing for a potential 1.2 million reduction in State aid from 5.4 million to 4.2 million during 2020 2021 what did our state aid, end up being for this year.

Donna Accurso: Number two are starting fund balance as of June 2019 was just above 19 million What was it as of June 2020 and where are we tracking for June 2021.

Donna Accurso: And then number three, how do you expect people to pay an increase tax bill this year with so many people unemployed or receiving a lower income, what happens when federal unemployment insurance and PPP runs out thanks.

Ryan Schoenfeld: assistant superintendent resume.

Cheri Rosenblatt: yeah So the first question, with respect to the state aid, we spoke about that a little bit in the presentation, so we had in the 2021 budget, it was actually not 5.4 million reduced to 4.2.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We budgeted 5.87 million of state aid so state aid is made up of that State aid line there's a building a line and then there's a bow sees a line we just break out.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The boss evade and the building aid so it's all state aid, so that included that 20% reduction to foundation aid.

Cheri Rosenblatt: And a reduced transportation aid reduction, because we knew we weren't expanding funds transporting home to school students from March to June, and there was no aid that was projected for that time if we had.

Cheri Rosenblatt: We couldn't get any aid for the month of March to June, basically, so when we made that reduction at the time we did it based on the governor's comments that there could be a possibility for those media reductions.

Cheri Rosenblatt: For this year we run our general aid reports periodically because they do change so they include things like.

Cheri Rosenblatt: excess cost aids for students, that are placed outside intuition programs.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So that changes periodically based on rate adjustments so we run out every so often, but right now, our last gen a report that we ran we were expecting for this year 6.76 million of state aid, so that is essentially 940 7000 more than budget.

Cheri Rosenblatt: The State also released that 20% that we spoke about with respect to what they were held.

Cheri Rosenblatt: In 1920 on those last few payments of the 1920 school year, so there was a portion of both these aid that we received and the withheld 20% and we received additional monies for some excess costs related to tuition.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So the second question was with regard to the fund balance so the fund balance as of June 2019 was.

Cheri Rosenblatt: Just above 19 million as of June 30 2020 the fund balance was 20,000,005 7892 This is also in our financial statements on the website.

Cheri Rosenblatt: So that increase was largely related to the reduce costs from covert closure from March to June so we weren't expanding as much from March to June when students were not in school.

Cheri Rosenblatt: physically not in school and so as a February 2021 we're projecting a reduction to about 18.7 million, you know this, as I said, this continues to change, you know as we move to bring students back on campus five days a week.

Matthew Bonney: And 18.7 is lower than our 2018 budget.

Matthew Bonney: Yes, reserves down to back to In essence, the 2016 level.

that's correct.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So we're continuing to look closely, I know the.

Ryan Schoenfeld: last question had to do with you know how can we, you know manage for an increase in a budget, especially during this time.

Ryan Schoenfeld: It is a challenging time it weighs heavy on us to find balance again since I started here two and a half years ago we're looking closely at what we spend why we're spending it.

Ryan Schoenfeld: And, and again when there is revenue coming in and we're talking about raising what you're already paying at a higher rate in this area, I recognize that it's a challenge and during this time.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So we're attempting to be really thoughtful fiscally responsible, as I said earlier, we're running a district as well that a lot of people move here for that education and what's offered.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So it's trying to hold that balance of US I'll say it in a nice way it's what we're accustomed to it's what we come here for many people.

Ryan Schoenfeld: were trying to uphold that too, which is of great value to our residents all of our residents, so I think we're thoughtfully approaching this recognizing none of this is easy.

Ryan Schoenfeld: So we're making those difficult decisions and we'll come to a place like I said, will sharpen a pencil look closer at things, but we want to provide.

Ryan Schoenfeld: The type of district that people expect and deserve an artist like while balancing again not going to your pocketbook you know our pockets, as much as possible.

Donna Accurso: Okay, thank you and our last question for this evening comes from cloud a parent of a first and ninth grader.

Donna Accurso: And she writes in order to plan for uncertainty in 2020 2021 we budgeted 4.26 million from the fund balances and reserves, what are we realistically projecting we will wind up truly using.

Ryan Schoenfeld: In general I think you answered this is there anything to add.

Cheri Rosenblatt: No, I think I think we answer the question prior.

Donna Accurso: Okay.

Any other questions.

Matthew Bonney: Okay.

Matthew Bonney: Thank you everyone, this is a very difficult task at this point we understand it, everybody is not in the best physical shape and we're doing what we can do to keep it all together and.

Matthew Bonney: We thank you for your patience.

Matthew Bonney: Doing executive session.

Matthew Bonney: No.

Matthew Bonney: So motion to adjourn the meeting.

download.

On forever.

Matthew Bonney: I.

Matthew Bonney: Hopefully, we will see you in person, or at least us in person on April six Thank you and that will be after our vacations I believe so, have a good week off for those who can take that time off, and thank you very much, have a good night.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Thank you everyone.

Ryan Schoenfeld: Thank you, local live as well.