Upper Perkiomen School District

Education Center
2229 E. Buck Road
Pennsburg, PA 18073

February 12, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Melanie Cunningham

MEMBERS:
Keith McCarrick
Leah Cianfrani
Trina Schaarschmidt

ADMINISTRATION:
Superintendent: Dr. Allyn Roche
Business Administrator: Drew Bishop
Assistant Business Administrator: Megan Moyer

Others Present: Director Pennepacker, Director Fluckey, Dr. Farina, Carol Giblin, Kim Bast, Jim Roth, and a member of the public

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes
    a. January 22, 2024
        - **Approved**

2. New Business/Discussion/Presentation
    a. Budget Presentation
        - Technology
        - Special Education
        - Assistant Superintendent
        - Curriculum and Instruction
        - Grants
        - Facilities
            - **The Administrators presented and reviewed the budget presentation with the Committee.**
            - **Several questions were asked by Committee members and answered by the Administrators.**

    b. MCIU 24-25 Budget (Attachment)
        - **Drew presented the proposed budget from the Intermediate Unit. The projected cost to the District for next year's budget is $36,069 which is an increase over the current budget of $37. The final allocation will not be determined until after the start of the 24-25 fiscal year so Drew will budget $37,000.**
            - **The Finance Committee recommended Board approval of the budget.**

    c. Copier Contract - Jim Roth
        - **Drew and Jim discussed a proposal from the current copier lease vendor that will be a full replacement of current copiers and come in roughly $900 per month less than what the District is currently paying.**

- **Jim discussed the advantages of staying with the same vendor including how he has been happy with the level of service when we log a service call. He also explained the advantage of using the same brand of copiers so our staff do not have additional training needs on newer copiers.**
- **Director McCarrick asked if Jim is satisfied with the number of copiers or if we can cut back on the number of copiers. Jim explained how he is satisfied with the number of copiers and where they are located and doesn't recommend any changes moving forward.**
    - **The Finance Committee recommended obtaining a formal proposal and bringing it before the Board for discussion and possible approval.**

d. Western Montgomery County Technical Center - Return of Fund Balance from 2022-2023 (Attachment)
- **Drew discussed the Tech School's request to keep $400,000 of their Fund Balance they are required to send back to the sending schools.**
- **Director McCarrick discussed the history and how this return of Fund Balance originated.**
    - **The Finance Committee recommended Dr. Roche and the sending school Superintendents discuss in more detail with the sending school Business Managers prior to any Board decision.**

3. Old Business
    a. Delinquent Real Estate tax bill request for waiver of penalties and interest
        - **Drew updated the Finance Committee on the additional information the taxpayer provided.**
            - **The Finance Committee recommended no forgiveness of penalties and/or fees and that the taxpayer seek resolution with the title company.**

    b. Per Capita Taxes
        - **Drew has provided exoneration forms to taxpayers that have requested one.**

4. Informational
    a. State Budget Proposal – Governor Budget Proposal
        - Basic Ed Subsidy = $10,769,022
            - Budget to budget increase of $1,075,133
        - Special Ed Subsidy = $2,326,482
            - Budget to budget increase of $202,721
        - Ready to Learn Grant = $378,374

- Budget to budget increase of $0

Big picture summary from PASBO:

- **$1.1 billion** proposed increase for BEF formula (13.62 % increase)
  - $872 million is proposed as a first-year adequacy investment as recommended by the BEFC.
  - The remaining $200 million will be distributed through the Basic Education Funding Formula, with recommended updates to reduce volatility and improve predictability and stability of funding.
- **$50 million** proposed increase for SEF.
- **$50 million** proposed for safety/security grants via PCCD for physical safety (and for coordinator training) (same amount as 2023-24).
- **$100 million** proposed for school mental health support grants via PDE (same amount as 2023-24).
- **$30 million proposed** increase to Pre-K Counts.
- **$300 million** for school environmental repairs and improvement grants ($1.5 billion in total over 5 years).
- Continuing universal free breakfast (continuing from 2023-24) and free lunch for reduced-price students (under 185% of poverty)
- **$15 million** for the student teacher stipend program
- **$2.4 million** increase for Career and Technical Education
- Establishes a **statewide cyber tuition rate** of $8,000 per student per year and will better align tuition with the actual costs of providing an online education
- **$500 million** in bond funding to expand the Pennsylvania Strategic Investments to Enhance Sites Program within DCED to fund on-site development for priority industries, such as agriculture and manufacturing.
- Calls to raise the minimum wage to **$15 per hour**.

b. Real Estate Taxes Liened as of 12/31/2023 (see table below)

Municipality	Interim Taxes Liened - Parcels	Current Taxes Liened - Parcels	Interim Taxes Liened - Amount	Current Taxes Liened - Amount	Total Parcels Liened	Total Taxes Liened
East Greenville	1	9	$215.86	$23,943.94	10	$24,159.80
Green Lane	0	11	$-	$48,319.60	11	$48,319.60
Pennsburg	40	28	$49,269.13	$78,087.71	68	$127,356.84
Red Hill	1	20	$118.34	$85,623.51	21	$85,741.85
Marlborough	0	44	$-	$108,648.54	44	$108,648.54
Upper Hanover	23	48	$17,926.78	$202,890.46	71	$220,817.24

Hereford	3	87	$1,359.10	$139,694.83	90	$141,053.93
				$687,208.59	315	$756,097.80
				Increase over prior year =	44%	49%

- **Drew discussed the increase in properties liened this year and how delinquent real estate taxes can be cyclical. More analysis will come through the budget process and future Finance Committee meetings.**

2. Public Comments
   - **None**
3. Committee Member Comments
   - **None**
4. Adjournment
   - **7:53 p.m.**

Next Meeting: March 18th at 6 p.m. in the Education Center