

The Rockbridge County School Board held a special meeting on Monday, March 15, 2021. The meeting was held using a virtual format.

Present: Remote participation from individual locations: Chairman Wendy Lovell; Trustees Corey Berkstresser, Kathy Burant, Heather Hostetter, Neil Whitmore; Superintendent Phillip Thompson and Deputy Clerk Haywood Hand.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lovell called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Budget Work Session for Fiscal Year 2022.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Superintendent Thompson stated that he will request an approval of the Categorical Estimate of Needs – FY22. He provided an overview of the Fund 50 – Categorical Estimate of Needs – FY22 Projected for FY 2021-2022. He stated that this estimate needs to be submitted to the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors no later than the end of March; they typically request the estimate early because it aides in their budget process, and in turn assists the school division. The estimate is inclusive of what the state is requesting with respect to asking school divisions to give teachers and employees a 5% raise for next year. Superintendent Thompson stated that this represents an estimate and a request, not a budget.

Fund 50 – Categorical Budget – FY22

<u>Category</u>	<u>FY22 Projected</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Instruction -61	\$23,858,008	72.0%
Administration & Health – 62	\$2,012,797	6.1%
Pupil Transportation – 63	\$2,734,522	8.3%
Operations & Maintenance – 64	\$2,967,679	9.0%
Facilities – 66	\$20,000	0.1%
Technology – 68	\$1,551,200	4.7%
Fund 50 Site Operating Budget	\$33,144,205	100.0%

Fund 50 – Expected Revenue Sources – FY22

<u>Category</u>	<u>FY22 Projected</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Estimated State Revenue Funding (FY22)	\$15,522,629	46.8%
Estimated Local Revenue Funding (FY22)	\$16,011,942	48.3%
Estimated Tuition Revenue Funding (FY22)	\$1,498,992	4.5%
Estimated Other Revenue Funding (FY22)	\$110,642	0.3%
Fund 50 Site Operating Budget	\$33,144,205	100%

- Trustee Burant requested that Superintendent Thompson clarify the 5% versus 4%, versus 3% from the state versus what the county has to put in with respect to raises.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that essentially for every percent raise increase, the cost is estimated to be \$250,000 total. Of that amount, the state touts the 5% raise for teachers and employees, in reality, it is truly only for Standards of Quality (SOQ) positions, which represents 45% of RCPS employees, and then only up to the LCI, the Local Composite Index, which is again roughly 45%. In essence, the cost to offer the \$250,000 raise, the state is only providing an estimated \$90,000; the locality has to come up with \$160,000. The school division must come up with the \$160,000 by either making cuts or asking the locality for assistance. There have been cuts made from the beginning and administration continues to go back and review line items for further cuts in trying to close the gap to make this work and balance the budget.
- Trustee Lovell shared her sentiment that it would be nice if, at the state level, Standards of Quality numbers could be expanded to reflect what divisions truly need in divisions to make schools successful.
- Trustee Whitmore reflected that the LCI cap has an impact as well.
 - Superintendent Thompson agreed that when the state looks at the ability of Rockbridge County to pay as being higher than many of the surrounding areas with their economic development, the state is saying that Rockbridge County's ability to pay is higher based upon their formula, which makes no sense. Over the years, the School Board has made inquiries to Ben Cline, Ronnie Campbell, and Creigh Deeds about what the division or General Assembly can do to fix it and make it more equitable and more fair for our

community, with no results at this point. He expressed his sentiments that all delegates and senators represent various counties and by helping one locality, they may hurt another locality.

- Trustee Whitmore asked for clarification that the LCI is re-calculated every three years.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that it is re-calculated every biennium, every two years.
- Trustee Burant asked for clarification of the \$160,000 cost to the school division and what the cost is to the locality for the 5% raises.
 - Superintendent Thompson stated that for every percentage it is an estimated \$250,000 total with \$90,000 coming from the state leaving \$160,000 to come from the locality or reduction from within our own budget.

Upon recommendation by Superintendent Thompson, motion by Trustee Burant, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by a 5-0 vote, the Board approved a Categorical Estimate of Needs – FY22 in the amount of \$33,144,205.

Chairman Lovell stated that the Rockbridge County School Board will meet with the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 5:00 PM at Maury River Middle School.

Trustee Burant inquired what board members should do prior to the meeting with the Board of Supervisors.

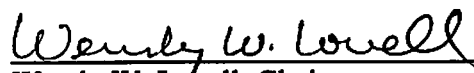
- Superintendent Thompson stated that it is always helpful if board members contact counter parts and advocate for our categorical estimate of needs. The Board of Supervisors are working hard as well trying to meet needs, which is not an easy task in any budget year, even more so this year in planning for FY22.

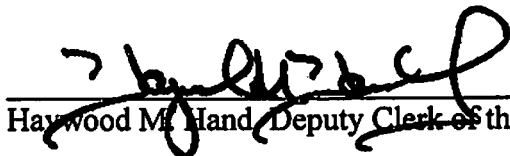
Chairman Lovell asked for confirmation that the approved document will be submitted on this date to Spencer Suter, County Administrator.

- Superintendent Thompson confirmed that it will be sent to Mr. Suter on this date.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Trustee Burant, seconded by Trustee Whitmore, and passed by 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.


Wendy W. Lovell, Chairman


Haywood M. Hand, Deputy Clerk of the Board