August 19, 2024, BOE Recap
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August 28, 2024

Superintendent's Report

2024-25 Draft Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting Report
Relevant Policy: Operational Expectation (OE) 5: Financial Planning, Operational Expectation (OE) 6: Financial Administration

Deputy Superintendent Wiese and Director of Finance Pete Grender presented 2024-25 budget goals, reviewed critical components of the State budget and related assumptions, reviewed the Verona Area School District's (VASD's) 5-year forecast, and revisited critical elements of the 2024-25 draft budget.

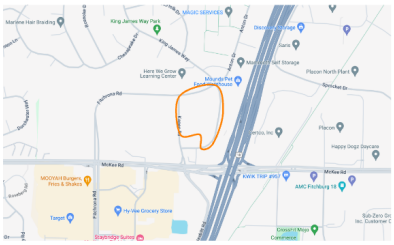


The 2024-25 preliminary budget goals are as follows:

- Slight to no tax increase for the average property owner in a high-inflation environment
- Staff compensation in line with the Consumer Price Index
- Debt management preparing for future capital expenditures
- Limited staffing increase to prepare for an unknown State budget
- Continue to align resources with VASD's Results Policies

Deputy Superintendent Wiese and Mr. Grender also previewed the 2024-25 Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting book in advance of the September Board of Education (BOE) final review and approval of the book and the Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting.

Final Review of Proposed Fitchburg Properties Acquisition
Relevant Policy: Operational Expectation (OE)-5: Financial Planning, Operational Expectation (OE)-6: Financial Administration, Results (R)-1: Mission



Deputy Superintendent Wiese provided the BOE with a review of the information shared at the August 5, 2024, meeting on the option to purchase 8.47 acres of land in Fitchburg with an eye toward future development as VASD continues to grow. After reviewing the information, the BOE considered the land purchase for a potential school site. VASD has binding options and offers on all 7 parcels comprising the 8.47 acres. A fit study has been completed demonstrating how a future school might be configured on the property. Survey and environmental work has started. City of Fitchburg officials are aware of this possible purchase. The next step is for the BOE to consider approval of the purchases. If the BOE grants approval, VASD will begin the process of closing on the properties.

Member Murphy read a public comment in support of the possibility of an elementary school in this area. Member Hanes recognized that it is very rare to have this much property available for purchase in an already-developed area and that it offers the unique potential to serve students who already live in the area or to be resold at a profit if the VASD decides to go in a different direction. Member Porco highlighted the work that has gone into this potential purchase so far, sharing that this great work puts VASD in a position to support all of our students better.

Member Peguero commented on the benefits and value of community cohesion offered by a potential school in this location.

Board Action

Approval to Purchase Fitchburg Land Properties
Relevant Policy: Operational Expectation (OE)-5: Financial Planning, Operational Expectation (OE)-6: Financial Administration, Results (R)-1: Mission

Member Hanes motioned to approve the purchase of 7 parcels of property in Fitchburg, as presented, with a total price of $8,335,077. Member Peguero seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Dr. Clardy thanked district leadership for their work in bringing this opportunity to fruition. He also thanked the BOE for living their commitment to serve every child in alignment with VASD's Equity Framework, which calls upon us to disrupt systems of inequity where they exist.

Approval of Results (R) 3: Well-Being Monitoring Report
Relevant Policy: Results (R)-3: Well-Being

Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Angela Hawkins and Director of Pupil Services Adam Zingsheim reviewed compliance with R3: Well Being indicators. They provided evidence of compliance with 1 of 4 components of 3.1.1(1) and compliance with 3.1.1(2), 3.1.5(1), 3.2(1) and 3.2(2). Mr. Zingsheim defined academic growth and explained how it is assessed. Dr. Hawkins indicated that data was not collected for indicator 3.1.2(1) and that data did not show compliance for 3.1.2(2). Data did not show compliance with indicator 3.1.3(1), and data was not collected for indicator 3.1.3(2). The data showed compliance with 1 of 4 components of 3.1.4(1-4). Dr. Hawkins reviewed indicator 3.1.5 and updated the BOE on the progress of creating VASD's Human Growth and Development Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. She stated that the opportunity was shared in the Verona Press, on the VASD website, and VASD social media.

Member Hanes sought clarification about changes to the R3 Well-Being Monitoring Report over time. Member Medina raised the idea of broadening 3.1.5 to include physical health. Member Murphy shared that Operational Expectation (OE) 10: Learning Environment and Student Behavior incorporates mainly process measures that include nutrition, but doesn't incorporate a broad array of student outcome measures. Dr. Clardy clarified that as a school district, we're not positioned to isolate variables and determine causality but that we are in a position to strive for improvement in multiple areas, and that is something about which we can collect qualitative and quantitative data. He also highlighted the importance of listening to the voices of our students. Member Medina concurred and expressed appreciation for staff's information on leadership moves associated with efforts to meet our goals as helpful "real time" data. Member Hanes shared questions about how to best structure monitoring reports and the various definitions of compliance. Member Stier Christensen concurred and questioned what the data measures, how we can best understand the student experience, and how well our students are doing. Member Porco expressed a desire to discuss this further in a BOE workshop and appreciated that leadership moves have been made and the challenges of quantifying some of the elements important to the BOE. Dr. Clardy reflected on the BOE and staff's experience and wisdom gained from the monitoring reports and indicators over the past few years. He suggested

considering approaches that are not bound by calendar dates, incorporate leadership moves, and are responsive to the complex nature of the organization. The BOE permitted Dr. Clardy to draft a monitoring report plan for the BOE to consider moving forward.

Member Medina motioned to approve the Well-Being Monitoring Report as presented. Member Porco seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Results (R) 4: Members of a Diverse Global Community Monitoring Report
Relevant Policy: Results (R)-4: Members of a Diverse Global Community

Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Angela Hawkins and Director of Pupil Services Adam Zingsheim provided evidence of compliance with 1 of 3 components of R 4.1, 2 of 3 components of R 4.2, 1 of 2 components of R 4.3, 1 of 2 components of R 4.4, and R 4.5.

Dr. Hawkins shared that approximately 150 staff received targeted professional learning in Restorative Practices last year. This year, there will be a 2.5 day training opportunity for school teams in restorative practices during the first semester in an ongoing partnership with our district Restorative Practices lead, Ms. Zeeland Walsh. Principal Mary Seidl shared Stoner Prairie Elementary School's experiences and data from their restorative practices training. She emphasized that restorative practices are powerful tools and that Stoner Prairie looks forward to including students in training in 2024-25.

After examining the tools and methods used to assess this results policy, Dr. Hawkins found that some questions may not effectively measure the intended indicators. Identifying a more suitable tool and ensuring that both staff and students fully understand the survey's purpose, questions, and underlying rationale will yield more accurate and relevant information in the future.

Member Peguero motioned to approve the Members of a Diverse Global Community Report as presented. Member Porco seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Board Updates

General Board Updates

New Staff Orientation
Member Murphy shared that she and Member Peguero will attend the New Staff Orientation on August 20, 2024.

Back to School Block Party
Member Murphy reminded the BOE about the upcoming VAHS Back-to-School event sponsored by the Black Student Union on August 25 from 12 pm - 4 pm at Verona Area High School.

Convocation
Member Murphy reminded the BOE that VASD's 2024-25 Convocation takes place Monday, August 26, from 7:45 - 10:45 at the Verona Area High School Performing Arts Center.

Wisconsin State Education Convention

Member Murphy mentioned that the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) State Education Convention will take place in

Milwaukee in January 2025 and that the BOE will receive details via email.

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