

DRAFT MINUTES

Greenfield Public Schools Budget, Finance, Negotiations

Date: 1/26/17

Time: 1-3 pm

Location: Central Office

Attendees:

Chair Nunez

Member Tripp

Member Hollins (via phone)

Member Farrell

Mayor Martin

Bus. Director Howie Barber

Superintendent Jordana Harper

Department Heads (sans Dir. Pupil Services)

Supporting Documents Received:

Technology info from Carol

Call to order:

1:05 pm

Agenda Items:

1. **Public Comment—NA**
2. Beth Pratt—PD and Curriculum: Maintain what we have for this year regarding curriculum budgeting and will centralise for materials to focus on savings with shipping, etc. PD and curriculum funding often comes from Title grants. Ongoing review of materials that are making a difference and those that are not. Beth is working on proposal for GRS building.
Support for coordinating ela materials from elem and gms. Asks for estimates on what every child needs for success (materials). Beth is putting together PD plan right now and states need for more alignment. States that SC needs to vote on PD plan \$, not on details of plan. HB—PD is budgeted for 95k now, based on last year's needs.
3. Carol Holzberg—Technology: Small changes ongoing re: immediate tech needs. Carol gives subcte a packet and spreadsheets. Review of what is different from last year.
 - a. Increase in bandwidth from Comcast. Grants have been secured for wireless infrastructure. With wireless, we get an easier way of meeting assessment requirements (online test) increased satisfaction with personalized learning via chromebooks and adaptive softwares subscriptions that are in use. Not in computer lab. Chromebooks on carts and also for assessments. Increased access to chromebooks and more folks online at same time means need for

more bandwidth. Increase represents the difference in this year to next year to improve bandwidth. 2nd year of 3 year contract at Gms and GHS. Coax is month to month, no contract. JH—speaks to nature of unfunded mandates. Comes as a directive from dese without \$ support. Carol has served as mediator to limit bandwidth for anything without a clear educational purpose.

- b. Telephone costs going up due to FCC cost rising to fund infrastructure.
 - c. Smart boards repair of old SBs. Discussion on impact of Smartboards on education. Carol notes that it is problematic to try for 1:1 improvement measure re technology. With Tech comes increased access to curriculum. Reaches more students based on their engagement needs. Have noticed better behavior and less outbursts. Tech keeps them more engaged and focused and personalized learning. Notes the big picture (dress, food, sleep) effects that are difficult to account for.
 - d. Software—yellow is new costs. Includes grant sources/funding sources. Appendix B.
 - e. Discussion on Erate. No talk yet of decreasing this funding.
 - f. Comment on individualized learning/software: 180, map assessment, fast math, other math instruction, ela newsella, leveled reading. Adaptive to individual needs. Benchmarked on performance. Software behaves based on that individual student.
 - g. Carol notes past practice of utilizing the capital process for infrastructure stuff. Need for clarification if capital improvement is the place to be requesting and budgeting for technology.
4. Michael and Howie—Transportation: Notes adding additional bus this year. 2 more years in contract. If kept all the same 9 buses etc, we would see \$ increase. Notes that radius can have big impact on the budget while making sure safe transport and student attendance. Ongoing review for recommended policy enforcement on this.

Mayor notes a lot of plans/action in place regarding transportation in town and serving school locations. Asks for route times and updated routes. JH says that we need to post and give notice that routes may change for next year. Thanks for mayor's efforts RE transportation in town to increase accesses. Will be looking at ways to address safety, high density housing, etc. Mayor asks for #'s on GRS and ELT if we have including cost per route and number of riders.

This year we started one mile radius at HS. Support expressed for consideration of student safety including walking and parents driving students to school. Notes possible attendance issues/therefore achievement issues. JH notes difficulty in enforcing radius—not in whether there is a radius.

Big bus for field trip—CIP money is on hold due to review of all vehicles. (town) Council put the restriction on vehicle purchases. Mayor notes the big bus referred to here is set to be used in new town set up. HB notes need for driver.

5. Facilities—Alan Schmidt: Consistent with FY17. Support for staffing and collab with town/dpw, Central Maintenance.
6. Foodservice—Madison Walker: Some issues with families paying. 1.2 million annual rev. + federal funds to support the department. Breakfast free at all locations, lunch is free at 3 locations, free and reduced lunch at other schools based on household income. 32 employees, all employees paid from food service reimbursement, benefits paid from Schedule 19. Noted that not federal grant, but federal *reimbursement*. Not guaranteed specific number. 2 vehicles, associated costs are all charged back to foodservice acct.

NT note negotiation of new contract for foodservice workers coming up. Will require review of staff #of hours, etc. for this purpose and hope to keep all costs under revolving acct.

Noted that District has to pay back bad debt for students and any deficit also must be covered.

7. HB General Wrap-up: Identify all costs and maximize all grants and resources to then know what must be requested from town. JH notes that balance, level budget would have impact on the instruction of students. Due to increase in sped, etc. Looking at efficiencies. Support for the satisfaction factors of families and students regarding transport, etc. Desire to serve the community while finding efficiencies. Support for aggressive use of grants—all admins doing good job with this. Praise for staff efforts.
8. Substitute coverages—para and nurses. Budget reflects increase in nurse rate to attract sub candidates.
9. SH—Wants to help lobby for SPED offsets advocacy. How are we using choice, IDEA, etc? Support for sbcte to have and discuss this info. T1, IDEA, and choice. Mayor—asks for expected revenue for 18, JH says can put together.

Adjournment time:
2:23 pm

Submitted by AN