

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District

Budget Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2022

Members in Attendance:

Gerald Finn of Millville

Julie Mitchell of Sutton

Chester Hanratty of Millbury

Barbara Auger, District Treasurer

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director

Anthony Steele, Asst. Superintendent-Principal

Lorna Mangano, Business Manager

Nicole St. Germain, Assistant Business Manager

Members Absent:

Joseph Hall of Bellingham

Guests in Attendance:

Robert Dolegiewicz, Interim Facilities Manager

Michael Denise, Athletic Director

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:42 p.m. by Ms. Mitchell in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Approval of minutes from prior meeting

Ms. Mitchell asked members to review minutes from the December 16, 2021 meeting.

Motion: On a motion moved by Dr. Fitzpatrick seconded by Mr. Finn it was unanimously voted to accept and approve the Budget Subcommittee meeting minutes of December 16, 2021, as written.

Agenda items

The meeting opened with Mr. Steele and Ms. Mangano's review of the Facility (4000 series) budget which had a \$31,042 or 3.35% increase from the prior year budget. Ms. Mangano continued with review of the utility line items. Significant components of the change consisted of:

- \$11.2K *Electricity*: slightly higher contract rates and lower solar net metering credit (various solar farms not going online) offset by contracted delivery rate decrease
- \$ 9.2K *Facilities Supplies*: HVAC replacement parts for the aging building offset by the one-time purchase of a new water softening system purchased in the prior year
- \$ 5.2K *Gas*: delivery rate increase per Department of Public Utility and increased usage (therms)
- \$ 5.0K *Grounds Maint. Supplies*: increase for chemically treated salt and additional paint for fields and parking lots based on trend
- \$ 3.8K *Water/Sewer*: increase in sewer rates and significant increase in water customer service charge
- \$ 2.0K *Equipment Maint. Vehicles*: increase cost for annual summer maintenance on vehicle fleet
- \$ 0.8K *Trash Removal*: increase trash disposal contract rate
- (\$2.1K) *Facilities Contract Svcs*: net impact of fluctuations for various maintenance, repairs and inspections (elevators, energy management system, boilers, fire alarms, extinguishers, back flow testing)
- (\$3.7K) *Telephone Usage*: cancellation of 18 Sprint Nextel direct connect devices to be replaced with 2-way radios in FY22

Next, Mr. Denise presented the Athletic and Student Activity budget components of Other School Services (3000 series). The Athletic budget had an increase of \$48,397 or 20.59% from the prior year. The Student Activity budget had an overall increase of \$5,350 or 3.75% from the prior year. Significant components of the change consisted of:

- \$38.1K *Athletics Contracted Services*: net increase for Boys Ice Hockey change from Co-Op to standalone, estimated 10% increase for transportation, increased participation in Girls Ice Hockey Co-Op, and maintenance of fitness center equipment that is a safety concern

- \$ 5.5K *Athletics Dues/Fees/Subscription*: added video and online sharing of games and practices and increase in various registrations and dues
- \$ 2.5K *Athletic Officials*: increase MIAA mandated rates for officials
- \$ 2.4K *DECA*: new request to fund club's membership dues & district competition
- \$ 2.3K *Athletics Supplies*: uniform replacement rotation for various teams, increase in equipment costs, offset by the removal of the one-time purchase of the softball scoreboard in prior year
- \$ 2.0K *Student Activity Audit Expense*: cost for the audit required every 3 years
- \$ 1.8K *Student Act-Graduation*: increase in for graduation venue
- (\$ 0.8K) *Student Activity Clubs*: decrease 3 clubs based on trend

A general discussion ensued regarding the Athletics budget. Mr. Denise pointed out that participation numbers are still low due to COVID, but they continue to increase. Also, the MIAA may not allow the Boys Ice Hockey Team to continue to participate in a Co-Op as there are now enough players to have a standalone team. The costs of having a standalone team are significantly higher than being part of the Co-Op, as considerations need to be made for ice time, coaches, officials, and uniforms. The anticipated increase to the FY23 Athletics budget is approximately \$24,619 to plan for this change. It was also noted that per MIAA, there are more state wide games beyond just central Massachusetts, which will increase the transportation budget. Also, uniform replacements are more expensive because they are made with better quality, using sublimation instead of screen printing, which will last longer.

The meeting moved to Ms. Mangano's presentation of the health center, transportation and security budget components of the Other School Services (3000 series), which had an overall increase of \$242,633 or 10.68% compared to the prior year budget. Significant components of the change consisted of:

- \$197.2K *Transportation Services*: estimated 10% rate increase in bus transportation pending outcome of the 1/7/22 Bid Opening for the new bus contract, with the hope that eventual bid is lower. FY23 will be year 1 of 3-year contract with option to renew for additional 2 years
- \$ 35.0K *Security Police Contracted Services*: increased school resource officer from part-time to full-time, funded by restructuring of District's school security
- \$ 8.5K *Health Ctr Contract Svcs*: increase health center costs assuming grant funding is impacted, increase contracted rates for nurses, offset by decrease to copier usage based on prior trends
- \$ 1.4K *Health Ctr Tech Contract Svcs*: SNAPS health management software due to COVID demands
- \$ 0.5K *School Security Conferences & Travel*: Cost increase for restraint trainer recertification course

Next, Ms. Mangano presented the budget summary, which reflected an overall increase of 5.74% for areas presented to-date when compared to the 2022 Budget. She reminded the committee that the next presentations will include Technology, Capital, Instructional, and School Choice.

In closing, Dr. Fitzpatrick shared several items with the committee. The first was an article regarding the expansion of the state's solar power program, indicating that the District will continue to explore off campus solar discounts and affiliations. The second was an article regarding estimated revenues to exceed \$13 billion this coming year, and the District will continue to monitor anticipated revenues to be discussed at a future meeting. Next, he presented a drafted listing of awarded and pending FY22 Grants and Donations to date, as well as a drafted letter explaining Excess and Deficiency guidelines that will be presented to the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) in the near future.

The next scheduled meeting is set for Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn made by Ms. Mitchell at 6:48 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Finn voted and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nicole St. Germain, Recording Secretary