

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District

Budget Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2023

Members in Attendance:

Gerald Finn of Millville
Chester Hanratty of Millbury
Christopher Pilla, District Treasurer
Lorna Mangano, Business Manager

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Anthony Steele, Asst. Superintendent-Principal
Nicole Ferguson, Assistant Business Manager

Members Absent:

Edward Cray of Mendon
Joseph Hall of Bellingham

Guests in Attendance:

Robert Dolegiewicz, Facilities Manager
Dawn Naff, Facilities Administrative Secretary
Michael Denise, Athletic Director

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Dr. Fitzpatrick in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Approval of minutes from prior meeting

Mr. Finn asked members to review minutes from the December 15, 2022 Budget Subcommittee meeting.

Motion: On a motion moved by Mr. Hanratty to approve the Budget Subcommittee meeting minutes of December 15, 2022 as written, seconded by Ms. Mangano; the motion was voted and approved with one abstention from Mr. Pilla as he was not in attendance at said meeting.

Agenda items

The meeting opened with Mr. Dolegiewicz's review of the Facility (4000 series) budget which had a \$202,464 or 21.37% increase from the prior year budget. Ms. Mangano reviewed the utility line items. Significant components of the change consisted of:

- \$111.1K *Electricity*: primarily due to estimated usage increase of 600,000 kWh valued at \$108K (based on trend) and \$11K in rate increases, offset by \$8K for additional net solar power credits with new agreement
- \$ 23.9K *Gas*: increase in therm usage and both the delivery and supplier rates
- \$ 18.3K *Facilities Contract Svs.*: net impact of fluctuations for various maintenance, repairs and inspections (i.e. water heater, A/C units, utility vehicle and lawn mower repairs)
- \$ 16.9K *Facilities Supplies*: HVAC/electrical/plumbing replacement parts for the aging building, air filters, uniforms, security and safety (traffic control, signs etc.)
- \$ 9.8K *Trash Removal*: increase trash disposal contract rate and new fuel service charge
- \$ 6.3K *Water/Sewer/HazMat*: increase in estimated sewer/water rates, as well as HazMat recycle/removal
- \$ 5.0K *Custodial Supplies*: increase based on anticipated inflationary cost
- \$ 5.0K *Extraordinary Maintenance*: increase based on anticipated inflationary cost
- \$ 3.0K *Grounds Maint. Supplies*: one time cost to replace aging paint sprayer
- \$ 2.9K *Facilities Software*: rate increase for service request software and addition of new construction and renovations software

An in-depth discussion ensued regarding the increase in electricity usage. Although a more thorough understanding of the higher kWh usage is still being assessed, the increase is likely the result of a number of factors such as

additional laptops given implementation of one-to-one devices, sophisticated refrigeration for new the BioTech program and an increase of a variety of other equipment (i.e. 3D printers, safety cameras, welders, ovens, dishwashers etc.). Mr. Finn asked Mr. Dolegiewicz for a few potential remedies to help offset the increase in usage. Dr. Fitzpatrick indicated that the Leadership Team will initiate a series of investigative cost effective strategies to offset electric expenses.

Next, Ms. Mangano presented the health center, transportation and security budget components of the Other School Services (3000 series), which had an overall increase of \$212,881 or 8.62% compared to the prior year budget. Significant components of the change consisted of:

- \$194.0K *Transportation Services*: increase in bus contracted rates and fuel adjustment estimates (Yr 2 of 5)
- \$ 10.8K *Transportation Supplemental*: increase in bus contracted rates (Yr. 2 of 5)
- \$ 7.3K *Health Ctr Contract Svcs*: increase in proposed contract rates for nurses and, to a lesser extent, in school based health costs
- \$ 0.5K *School Security Supplies*: uniforms for campus security staff
- \$ 0.2K *School Security Conferences*: increase in Welle Restraint Trainer recertification fees

Ms. Mangano moved on to review School Choice (9000 series). She informed the subcommittee that DESE recently published the preliminary school choice winter rosters and related tuition. The District's roster contained three school choice students with a preliminary total tuition cost of \$15,000. Ms. Mangano indicated the member towns for these school choice students were Grafton, Millbury and Uxbridge; the receiving district was Worcester.

Next, Mr. Denise presented the Athletic and Student Activity budget components of Other School Services (3000 series). The Athletic budget had an increase of \$26,948 or 9.88% from the prior year. The Student Activity budget had an increase of \$7,760 or 5.25% from the prior year. Significant components of the change consisted of:

- \$ 14.5K *Athletics Supplies*: uniform replacement rotation for various teams, increase in equipment costs, new golf bags, maintenance on backfield scoreboard, and equipment for a new indoor track offering
- \$ 8.5K *Skills USA*: increase in National Skills USA competition costs based on prior year trends (airfare, lodging, and registration)
- \$ 6.6K *Athletic Officials*: increase MIAA mandated rates for officials
- \$ 5.9K *Athletics Dues/Fees/Subscription*: increase in various registrations and dues offset by three year online scheduling contract
- \$ 0.9K *Student Act-Graduation*: increase in fees for graduation venue
- \$ 0.3K *DECA*: increase in cost for DECA competition based on trends
- (\$ 2.0K) *Student Act-Audit Expense*: decrease for the audit required every 3 years, last paid in FY23

In closing, Ms. Mangano first presented an update to the District's October 1, 2022 enrollment, inclusive of preliminary school choice enrollment. She then presented the Budget Summary which reflected an overall increase of 6.78% for areas presented to-date compared to the 2023 Budget. She reminded the committee that the remaining budget presentations consist of Instructional, Technology, and Capital.

Areas for follow-up:

Mr. Finn's request for remedies to help offset the increase in electricity usage

Open Item at this time

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn made by Mr. Finn at 6:40 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Mangano; motion voted and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nicole Ferguson, Recording Secretary