

Finance Committee Notes

The Finance Committee meet and examined how to achieve two directives from the school Board. The first was to make sure the 22-23 budget did not exceed the 4.1% cap. The second was to find possible cost shifts within the budget to allow for the addition of yellow sheet positions.

Budget Challenges

Every budget has its challenges and the 22-23 budget is no exception. While the expenses in initial budget presentation in October fell within the Board goal, it did not account for revenues.

Revenue Breakdown

Fund Balance	MS24	FY23 Projected	Change
	\$1,015,867.00	\$500,000.00	(515,867)
Tuition	3,340,000	3,200,000	(140,000)
Special Education Aid	80,000	200,000	120,000
Vocational Aid	5,000	6,000	1,000
Total			(534,867)

Projected revenue includes a decrease of \$515,867 from the approved 20-21 MS24 fund balance and also \$140,000 decrease Barrington tuition revenue. Overall, the FY22-23 budget revenue is projected to decline \$534,867 from the approved 20-21MS24. This would result in a significant percentage increase in the amount apportioned to the cooperative communities. The finance committee suggests the use of emergency, capital improvement, and benefits stabilization funds to offset this and reduce the potential tax impact.

A second challenge has been the increasing cost of wages of hourly employees. One of the biggest stories of the pandemic has been shortages of bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and custodians. As a result, the district is seeing a dramatic increase in the cost of bargaining unit contracts. Since contracts are included in the budget goal, this added another obstacle to remaining within the upper limit of the School Board goal.

Yellow Sheet Additions

As the committee discussed the yellow sheets, we felt it was important to remind the School Board of the positions that had already been included in the budget. They are the middle and high school Mandarin teachers, and elementary teaching position, and two custodians for the middle school. In addition, the budget includes money for the tennis courts. The committee looked at the current and proposed budgets and discussed possible budget shifts to open up funding for yellow sheet positions.

Possible Budget Shifts

Special Education Speech	\$42,000.00
Accounting Software	\$70,000.00
Cafeteria Furniture	\$25,000.00
School Nutrition	\$28,000.00
Total Cost Shifts	\$165,000.00
Net Addition to Fund 10	\$37,000.00
Total Possible Funds for Yellow Sheet Additions	\$202,000.00

\$165,000 in possible budget shifts were identified and \$37,000 was added to the Fund 10 balance to provide \$202,000 for yellow sheet additions.

Remaining Within The Budget Goal

	21-22 Approved	22-23 Proposed	Percent Change
Fund and Warrant Totals	\$50,254,968.00	52,412,006	4.29%
Revenue and Credits	\$6,559,659.00	\$6,924,792.00	5.57%
Apportioned to the Towns	\$43,695,309.00	\$45,487,214.00	4.1%

The proposed budget in the table above includes \$202,000 for possible yellow sheet additions and used \$900,000 in emergency and trust funds to offset expenses. This allows proposed budget to remain within the School Board budget goal. As was mentioned earlier, revenue decline would require the Board to make cuts to the Fund 10 budget or use emergency funds regardless of yellow sheets additions. Addition of the yellow sheets increases the possible offset from \$800,000 to \$900,000.

Suggested Yellow Sheets

Since they have a significant direct impact on students, the committee felt that implementation of the administration recommendations for MTSS positions should be a priority. This would mean the addition of two tutor positions and the elementary math/ science specialist.