

Manitowoc Public School District
Minutes of the Finance & Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at 5:30pm,
or Directly following the Joint Personnel and Finance & Budget Committee Meeting

Committee Members present were Collin Braunel, Chair, Kathy Willis, and Tony Vlastelica. Other board members, Staacy Soelder, Matthew Phipps, and Kerry Trask. Director of Business Services Angela Erdmann were also in attendance.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to by Braunel at 5:52 pm

II. REVENUE LIMIT HISTORY - (Information/Discussion)

Erdmann shared information regarding the Revenue Limit Calculation as the primary source of funding for the MPSD. Student counts, per pupil aid amounts, operating referendums, equalized land value, aid and levy amounts and mill rate are the most critical components of the Revenue Limit Calculation. The cost of Vouchers to the taxpayers was also discussed and the overall need to make the MPSD a destination school district to increase our enrollment and lessen the Open Enrollment Out and Voucher expenses. While there is much information that needs to be updated before the October 15th Aid Certification and Revenue Limit is Finalized for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year, the initial estimate is that our Mill Rate will be in the Six Dollar range this year. With our Mill Rate at historic lows, the district will need to consider going out to referendum to address a growing list of Capital Improvement needs.

Erdmann shared that the historic funding of the Revenue Limit has created the largest challenges for school districts. With the original Revenue Limit calculation formula put in place in the fall of 1993, many districts already had their current year budgets in place and the data from that budget year was used to establish placement into the formula. Districts that were conservative and low-spending remain under the state average to this day, even with additional funding to low-revenue districts to minimize the gap. Erdmann shared that she can share additional information regarding per-pupil amounts across the state with the committee. As most think that per-pupil spending is linked to the total budget, it is truly connected to the per-pupil revenue generated through the revenue limit calculation. Vlastelica also requested information regarding the history and where we would be if we had not been a conservative spending district so that he can take that information to those in state offices and lobby for funding based on needs. Erdmann said that she would be able to provide that.

III. EQUALIZATION AID OVERVIEW & FUND 46 TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION -
(Information/Discussion/Possible Action)

Erdmann shared the background of Fund 46 and the long-range planning that the administration has worked on to identify projects to be funded through Fund 46. The district is in the process of updating their Long-Term Capital Improvements Plan this summer in order to access the funds for projects in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Erdmann will share this plan with the committee board as it is completed.

Erdmann also explained that as a positively aided district, our goal is to maximize expenditures by transferring them from the General Fund to Fund 46 by July 30th of each year. Erdmann plans to work with Interim Superintendent Feil to identify the amount of funds to move over to Fund 46 with board approval to make the transfer.

Braunel asked about the Municipal Field acquisition as it was stated by Building and Grounds Chairman that this was brought before the board for approval and it was not recalled. Superintendent Feil, stated that he would look into the matter. Erdmann assured the board that we were only voting for the fund transfer and that the projects that were mentioned in our presentation were only planned and not set in stone.

Willis made the motion with a second by Vlastlica to approve the transfer of Surplus Funds from Fund 10 to Fund 46 to close out the 2021-22 Fiscal Year.

IV. 2022-23 BUDGET UPDATE/REVIEW - (Information/Discussion)

Erdmann shared the initial drafts of the Revenue budget for all funds and Expense budgets for Funds 21, 38, 46, and 50. As we are at the early stages of the budget process, Erdmann shared that while most of the information will not vary greatly, many aspects will adjust slightly as we head through the summer and the beginning of the school year - especially as we continue to hire staff to fill vacancies.

V. MPSD STUDENT FEES FOR 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR - (Information/Discussion/Possible Action)

Erdmann shared the Schedule of Fees for the 2022-23 School Year. There were no proposed increases to fees in an effort to reduce burden on families, even with the increased costs of goods in the economy.

Willis made a motion to approve the 2022-23 MPSD Student Fees, seconded by Vlastelica to be approved by the full board.

VI. ADJOURN

Motion by Willis, seconded by Vlastelica to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela M. Erdmann
Acting Secretary
July 8, 2022