

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**MINUTES****WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

January 5, 2017 5:30 PM Old Music Room, Administration Building

Present – Bonnie Thompson, Business Manager; Dr. Brenda Freeman, Superintendent; Matt Feil, Committee Chairperson and Board Member; Christopher Gastrock, Committee Member and Board Member; Duane Cotner, Board Member; Sue Judlin, Board Member, Wayne Hackett, Board Member, Pat Hewitt, Federal Programs/Curriculum Director; Steve Adams, Elementary School Principal; Rob Kreger, High School Principal; Dr. Ben Largey, Coordinator of Online Programs / School Psychologist; Mike Pietropola, Middle School Principal; Daren Bryant, Building & Grounds

Committee Chairperson, Matt Feil, opened the meeting at 5:30 pm and then turn the meeting over to Bonnie Thompson, Business Manager who introduced Adam Batesky and Dave DiTanna from Buffamante, Whipple and Buttafaro to present the audited preliminary financial statements for 2015-16 fiscal year. Mr. DiTanna and Mr. Batesky provided a powerpoint presentation and Preliminary audited financial statement books.

Budget Calendar was provided to everyone. Mrs. Thompson reviewed the calendar and discussed the importance of the May and June Board meetings. The May School Board meeting will have a Proposed Final Budget for approval and the June School Board meeting will have the Final Budget for approval. Mr. Feil reminded committee and board members of what occurred last year at the May board meeting and the importance of approval the Proposed Final Budget. Mrs. Thompson stated it would be the goal to have the May Proposal Final Budget very close to what the Board's direction is.

January 10th Board Meeting - Mrs. Thompson stated the Act 1 Index is 3.2% for the 2017-18 budget. The Committee will need to decide which direction they wish to pursue for budget:

1. To approve the Resolution which is on the board agenda. This Resolution states the District will not go above the 3.2%. It means we go to the 3.2% Act 1 index or below.
2. Or do a preliminary budget and file for exceptions to go above the 3.2% Index

The Committee agreed to have the Resolution on for board approval at the January meeting.

Staffing – Handout was provided

Forecast 5 Analytics Powerpoint - Mrs. Thompson shared with the Committee a presentation on a data analysis and forecasting model. Mrs. Thompson is requesting the approval to replace the Hartman forecasting model with Forecast 5. The Committee was in favor; therefore, the contract will be on the January board agenda.

2017-18 Budget - Mrs. Thompson reviewed revenues from all sources- local, state and federal were discussed. Mrs. Thompson stated the funding of Basic Education Funding from the State has a new formula and several of data items needed for the formula will not be available till the later in the spring. Mrs. Thompson discussed assessed values from Tioga and Lycoming County, the value of 1 mil and the amount of new money from no tax increase or the amount of new money from an increase to the index of 3.2%

Review of some expenditures- Mrs. Thompson discussed debt service, payroll salaries and benefits;

- health insurance preliminary rate budgeted is 5.41%
- PSERS informed school districts of an increase in the original retirement rate for 2017-18. The new rate is 32.57%.

With updating payroll, benefits and debt service, Mrs. Thompson reported a preliminary budget of with a shortfall of \$1,458,508.

Next Meeting - The next meeting will be scheduled after the establishment of committee members at the January School Board meeting.