

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

February 29, 2012 12:00 PM Administration Office- Conference Rm.

Start Time: 12:00PM

Present

Craig West, Glenn Poirier, Jonathan Lawton, Carl Chambers, Marcia Newcomb, Chris Morral, Steve Adams, Pat Hewitt, David Krick, Bryan Murphy, Mike Pietropola, Amy Repard, Scott Keck, Ben Largey
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Agenda

- 1- 2012-2013 Preliminary Budget Update as of February 29, 2012
- 2- Staffing Discussion for 2012-2013
- 3- Other issues/concerns

Committee Member /Administration Issues or Discussion Topics

1. Committee chairperson Craig West called the meeting to order at 12:00(Noon). Mr. west turned the meeting over to Superintendent Morral to review updated budget projections for the 2012-2013 school year. According to the preliminary budget released by Governor Corbett, Wellsboro Area School District will receive \$116,064 less than the previous fiscal year. Mr. Morral commented on the position Governor Corbett has taken in regards to the Student Accountability Block Grant and that the proposed preliminary budget has combined the basic education subsidy into one block that includes pupil transportation, non-public transportation, and social security reimbursement.
2. Business manager Marcia Newcomb then review the handouts distributed to committee members. As a result, Mrs. Newcomb noted that the current budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year shows a (-\$70,057) as a result of proposed budget reductions. Items being discussed as proposed cost reductions include but are not limited to reserve for future retirement expenses, capital improvement funds, athletics (wing field bleachers & scoreboard), unified arts, title 1 reading, part-time instructional aides, district-wide salary freeze and driver's education.
3. Superintendent Morral then opened the meeting for discussion regarding each item discussed as possible budget reductions. Several committee members opened dialogue regarding the possibility of using funds set aside for future retirement expense to assist in balancing the budget. Both pros and cons were discussed if the district were to pursue this direction. Additional discussion took place regarding taking away funds from the capital project budget. Several capital projects are in desperate need of completion that include MS roof, MS

concrete and steps, district-wide paving projects, and several other related items. Original capital project budget was \$400,000 and has now been reduced to \$300,000.

4. Further discussion continued regarding unified arts in the MS and potential curriculum changes relating to re-organizing and improving the unified arts program. In addition, the 7/8 grade title 1 reading position was discussed in terms of number of students participating. Mr. Hewitt commented that numbers have increased from previous years.
5. Last two items of discussion revolved around driver's education and district-wide salary freeze. As a result, a proposed solution to assist with the increasing costs of offering driver's education is to increase the cost/student in which the student is responsible for in addition to capping the number of allotted hours annually. More information is required before a decision can be made. However, committee members recommended increasing the cost to students from \$50.00 to \$150.00. In regards to district-wide salary freeze, Superintendent Morral commented that in order to accomplish a district-wide salary freeze, it would be necessary to open all collective bargaining agreements. Failure to obtain majority vote from each association would eliminate this as a possibility.
6. Meeting was adjourned at 1:33PM.