

WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 9, 2011 12:00 PM Administration Office- Conference Rm.

Start Time: 12:05PM

Present

Todd Coolidge, Glenn Poirier, Wayne Hackett, Carl Chambers, Chris Morral, David Krick, Steve Adams, Ben Largey, Mike Pietropola, Amy Repard, Scott Keck, Public- John Peropat

Agenda

Release of PA Budget (March 8) Highlights
Discuss impact of PA budget on PA schools
Current status of WASD budget
Finalize budget reduction proposals

Committee Member /Administration Issues or Discussion Topics

1. Superintendent Morral opened the meeting with a discussion highlighting the release of the PA Budget by Tom Corbett from March 8th. Mr. Morral stated, "If you look at the spreadsheet that shows state funding only, it looks like there is a \$492,619,000 increase in BEF (10.41% increase) over the 10-11 amount of \$4,733,523,000. However, when one considers all the funds available to BEF in the current fiscal year (2010-11), you can see the significant reduction for 2011-12.
2. To highlight several key items within the proposed PA Budget, several line items that provide funding to districts have been **eliminated**. Some of those include:
Dual Enrollment: \$6.9 million
Accountability Block Grants: \$259 million
Education Assistance Program (tutoring): \$47.6 million
Reimbursement for charter schools: \$224 million
Also, funding for Intermediate Units has been removed.
3. Mr. Morral then discussed the current status of WASD 2011-2012 budget. Mr. Morral noted that as of today (March 9) the district faces a deficit of \$1,255,307. Key factors influencing this deficit include the reduction of stimulus funds from BEF, loss of accountability block grant in the amount of \$246,880, dual enrollment \$7,200, and charter school reimbursement of \$142,756.
4. At the conclusion of discussing Governor Corbett's Budget facts, Mr. Morral opened the meeting to committee members to discuss several areas of proposed cost reductions. Areas discussed as possible cost reductions included athletics, health insurance (tiered vs. composite rate), fixed asset valuation, Mary Lou Putnam Fitness Center, Building level budgets, support staff, capital projects, computer support technician, and several teaching positions.

Committee members also discussed additional considerations that included retirement incentives, STAR program, and school-based probation

5. Superintendent Morral commended both the board of directors as well as the administration for approaching the 2011-2012 budget with a sense of trust as well as open lines of communication. At the request of the board committee as well as committee chairperson, Todd Coolidge, it was recommended that the administrators continue to explore several key discussion topics and report our recommendations to the budget and finance committee at our next meeting on March 16th.

6. Superintendent Morral also reported that in an attempt to keep all stakeholders informed and eliminate circulation of false information, we will be hosting a budget forum for all members of our faculty and staff on **March 17th @ 3:45PM in the HS Auditorium** to present the 2011-2012 budget that will include a reduction in expenditures of \$1,255,307.

We will also be hosting a community forum on **March 21st @ 7:00PM in the HS Auditorium** for the purpose of discussing our 2011-2012 budget with all members of the community and the impact state funding will have on our school district.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35PM.

Next Budget and Finance Meeting will be March 16, 2011 @ 12:00PM- District Office Conference Rm.