

## WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mark Boyer Business Manager

> Finance Committee Budget Workshop Date: Wednesday,4/19/2021 Place & Time: CBR, 4:15pm

Committee Chair: Steve Pottieger

## **Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Rob Scoboria, Dr. Woodard

Board Attendees: Mrs. Harenza, Mrs. McAvoy, Mr. McCaffrey, Mrs. Phillips (Zoom),

Mr. Pottieger, Mrs. Taylor (Zoom), Mrs. Waxler, Mrs. Ziolkowski,

Public Attendees: None

Finance Meeting called to order: 4:27 pm by Mark Boyer

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

## **New Business:**

- Mr. Boyer reviewed a presentation covering:
  - Review of ESSER funds
  - Allocation of ESSER III Funding
  - Current Year 2020-21 review
  - Projection/ February into March
  - Review 2021/22 Budget.

Esser Cares Funding – Mr. Boyer provided an overview of the three phases of ESSER Funding; I, II and III, as was covered in previous meetings. Mr. Boyer explained the ESSER III funding can be allocated in many ways. He said the funding is to be used by September 30, 2024, and the one difference in spending is that 20% of the funds must be set aside for learning loss.

Mr. Boyer shared a slide listing the ways the ESSER III funding will be allocated beginning with the 20% learning loss funds and asked Dr. Woodard to explain.

Dr. Woodard said students have been in school inconsistently over the past year, and we have a reading specialist at WHEC and an intervention teacher, however, the deficit in our staffing is in math intervention. They need someone who can work with students building

conceptual knowledge and work with students in different ways to help gain solid foundational skills in math. Dr. Woodard said their goal is to use an intervention teacher in a position K-4 at WHEC for math intervention. Dr. Woodard said the *new* position would be for reading specialty services for grades five and six, be data minded and data driven and also spend time with seventh and eighth grade to address students who are not where they should be in literacy. Dr. Woodard said this would address learning loss with math K-4 and reading literacy grades five and six and grades seven and eight. Dr. Woodard said possibly, with three to five retirements each year, the future cost would be covered, so positions can remain past learning loss funding. They are looking at current employees to service those roles, and this provides the opportunity to return the staff to the classroom or prior role if necessary.

COVID Coordinator - Mr. Scoboria explained, the day to day work with COVID and the students/staff and parents, falls under Pupil Services, which also includes IEPs, gifted, mental health, and equity committee. He said it is like two jobs for one person. Additional staffing is necessary to properly manage COVID demands as well as the regular special education department duties. This position would not add an administrator, but would use a teacher in the building who is currently working in special education, and has assisted in the past, who has the knowledge to assume and aid in departmental needs. She would work with Mrs. Lengle as a teacher on assignment for one year to balance the additional department needs due to COVID management demands. The new cost to the District would be for a learning support teacher to cover the special education teacher building need. Mr. Scoboria feels this is a good way to build internal building capacity at least for the year. At the end of the year, we would reassess and determine the need. If the need no longer exists, the teacher would return to her role in the Special Education Department. Mr. Scoboria said there is almost always a need in the Special Education Department and normally there are always available spots to fill each year.

Nurse Aide – Mr. Scoboria said this one-year position would enable the District to provide adequate building coverage for nursing staff during COVID response.

Instructional Coaches – Mr. Boyer explained these are already budgeted. Costs would be offset using ESSER III funding.

Mr. Boyer reviewed the additional items ESSER III funding would be used for:

- Mental Health
- HVAC Equipment (Renovation Project)
- Curriculum Enhancements
- Touchless Time Clock Hardware Upgrade
- iPads and Cases JSHS
- WREC Projectors replacements
- Chromebooks (additional for BOL)
- PPE and Contracted Cleanings

Mr. Boyer reviewed 2020/21 Projections and explained the projected current surplus and budgeted deficit. Mr. Boyer explained the \$1.1 million variance, reviewing unfavorable revenues and favorable/unfavorable expenditures. Mr. Boyer also explained the unknowns of ESSER II revenue (receivable / timing) and the Delinquent tax collection.

Mr. Boyer reviewed enrollment projections explaining this information was shared in prior meetings. Mr. Boyer highlighted the LTS to a float position which provides the ability to move that position amongst grade levels as needed, based on enrollment.

Mr. Boyer reviewed personnel requests, a graph depicting the salary/wage increases, tax increase options and millage rates. Mr. Boyer reviewed the tax increases based on 2%, 1.5%, and 1% and cost for an average home valued at \$150,000.

Mr. Boyer reviewed the 2021/2022 budget update and shared a scenario slide depicting possible results on deficit based on certain levelers. Mr. Boyer does recommend some sort of tax increase. Mr. Boyer reviewed an interactive slide to explain in depth the results on deficit as levelers are input. The Board decided to discuss a tax increase of 1.5% or 2%.

Mr. Boyer reviewed surplus/deficit projections for the next five years and the resultant effect on total fund balance out to the year 2026. Mr. Boyer explained the reasons to increase taxes to the Act I index each year, while recognizing the challenges this budget year brings.

Mr. Scoboria provided an update on fair funding. He is working with Dr. Hackman at the BCIU to create a story detailing the differences in the fair funding between local Districts. Mr. Scoboria said the hope is to garner support and move forward together with other districts in similar situations to shed light and affect change.

Next Steps – Mr. Boyer asked the Board for recommendation for the May meeting preliminary budget to bring forward 2% tax increase with the option for 1.5% tax increase.

Mr. Boyer reviewed items for the next Board agenda.

Tonight's PowerPoint presentation will be posted to the District website.

Adjournment: 6:47pm

Respectfully submitted by: Mark Boyer