

Regional School District 13  
Educational Resources Committee  
March 14, 2016

Members Present: Kerrie Flanagan, Nancy Boyle, Jeremy Renninghoff, Bob Moore

Members Absent: Norm Hicks, Anthony Onofreo

Also Present: Merrill Adams, Victor Friedrich, Kathryn Veronesi, Ron Melnik

Chair Kerrie Flanagan opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m. at Central Office.

1. **Public Comment:** No public were in attendance.
2. **Minimum Budget Requirements:** Ron Melnik gave a presentation on the State Minimum Budget Requirements (MBR) with a description of the law and an example prepared by Shipman and Goodwin, LLP. The MBR, in general, requires the municipality to appropriate local funds for education in an amount equal to the amount that is the same as the total appropriation during the previous fiscal year. Exceptions include reduced student enrollment with a cap of 1.5% of the total budget and closure of schools due to reduction in enrollment. MBR establishes a penalty of \$2 for every \$1 dollar below the MBR value. The current proposed budget is approximately \$143,000 above the MBR. Ron was directed to prepare a fact sheet with calculations of the MBR for this year's proposed budget using the budgeted values for the BOE budget meeting on March 16, 2016.

Dr. Veronesi discussed the possibility of a waiver to the requirement and has submitted a request to the State Commissioner of Education. She did not think an answer would be forthcoming until the budget was adopted or failed to be adopted.

3. **Budget Adjustments:** Kerrie Flanagan asked members for their recommendations for any budget adjustments. Bob Moore discussed his support for the position of Director of Development and Organization due to the need for a professional to manage all human resource issues including discipline, health, pension, FMLA, teacher evaluation and performance. He thought that the position might be better as a non-union director. Dr. Veronesi explained her rationale to keep the position in the Administrators Union.

Merrill Adams supported the position as well and explained the need based on her experience. Jeremy Renninghoff opposed the position stating that there were too many administrators and the work was getting accomplished. Dr. Veronesi explained the adjustment in roles and the focus on teacher development in order to enhance student achievement. Victor Friedrich supported the position and the need to meet state requirements. He also pointed out that that the budget does reduce the administrators by one and this was a replacement for the Special Education Coordinator position. Nancy Boyle Supported the elimination of the Special Education position and desired that the Director of Development and Organization position should be non-union.

Kerrie Flanagan discussed the issue of \$58,000 for stipends for High School plays which was raised at the previous BOE meeting. Ron Melnik explained that the \$58,000 was for all student clubs at the high school and was capped in previous budgets at that amount. There was no increase. Any increase in cost for student plays would be offset by a reduction in another event.

Kerrie Flanagan discussed the item of workers fees which was also raised at the last BOE meeting. Ron Melnik explained that all event fees go into the general fund so they don't show as an offset to costs. There are proposed changes in police and workers for events to minimize costs. This item did not show in previous budgets but the workers were paid.

Further concerns were raised by Jeremy Renninghoff with the number of teachers in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and the class size shown in the Budget. Dr. Veronesi explained that one of the teachers will be teaching an 8th grade class also. He also questioned the Capital cost of Building Maintenance. Kerrie Flanagan said that all capital cost will be explained at the March 16, 2016 BOE meeting.

A brief discussion of after school and extra learning programs occurred.

4. **Adjournment:** A motion to close the meeting was made by Jeremy Renninghoff and seconded by Nancy Boyle at 9:09 p.m.

Submitted by Bob Moore