

Summary Board of Education December 9, 2021 Regular Meeting

Deb dropped off the handout from last night's meeting for Lisa to include in the packet. Brian has included a lot of good financial information in it. That information is not repeated here.

The IT services are divided between T B & G and Learn. T B & G handles hardware, network and infrastructure. The T B & G staff member assigned to Salem (Scott) is available to the staff 24/7. Learn handles the things that Sharon Dugger did (The school was not able to find 1 person who had all of her skills for a reasonable price.) The two vendors work hand in hand. Learn is responsible for all of the student data services. There are 3 components covered by Learn contractors. Powerschool support is for the software that is used to run the school – things like report card and records. Software support is for configuring software and supporting users. The third part is big picture analytics. That service is not turning out to be very useful to the school. They are in the process of renegotiating the contract with Learn, to better tailor the services to Salem's needs.

The Rec Commission and Baseball League have donated new scoreboard to the school with conversion boards. These will make the scoreboards in the gym more accessible to the younger students. The total value of the donation is \$6633.00.

The school is in the process of completing a school climate survey. A far greater number of responses have been received than were received when this was done 2 years ago. The survey has 3 components – parents, teachers and students. The parents portion has closed. So far the results are quite positive.

Business manager report: The unencumbered fund balance is currently \$610,200 – 5.52%. This is above previous years, but the busing expenses are eating into it.

Line item transfers:

The audits line (\$2505) was due to the new auditor fees. BOE did not have the new fees when they were developing the budget.

The over time for office staff (231.42) is for time insuring that all students are safely cleared from the school during dismissal busing.

Oil tank replacement: The new tank has been installed and the old underground tank was removed on 11/29. The school is awaiting the results of the soil samples.

Milestone Video Surveillance System Expansion: Three bids were received. Only 2 of the vendors are capable of handling all of our security systems. It is seen as important to

to have the same people handling all of the related systems. The current provider, Sonitrol was the low bid of of the two acceptable vendors.

Gym Sound System: The vendor that the BOE had selected was on the the State Bid List. They are no longer on the list. It may be necessary to go out to bid before this contract can be awarded.

Long Range Capital Plan: The school has had slow response from vendors in getting the bids for the 10 Year Capital Plan. The supply chain issues are making the process difficult. The bids are now all in, and they will be submitting it.

- There is only 1 new item on the plan for 2022-23. The school traffic flashers on Rt 85 are not functioning well. This is seen as a need, not a want as it is a safety issue. The cost is \$16,490. The school is not sure whose capital budget this belongs in. They included it in their section and provided the estimate. Where it ends up can be decided by the combined boards.
- At this time they did not include the request for library shelving, as the view it as a want, not a need.

Teacher Contract Negotiation: Today is is the last day for negotiating a contract agreement. If an agreement is not reached, the process moves into the Mediation phase.

Early Notice of Retirement: The BOE authorized the superintendent and business manager to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the unions. It would take the form of a Memorandum Of Understanding. Typically, staff notify the school of their intent to retire at the end of the school year. This makes it very difficult to do anything other than back fill the existing positions. If notice is provided early in the year (e.g. January) , there is time to consider other staff configurations. It is difficult to do this once schedules are set for the students. A possible approach is to pay a fee (\$10-20) for each of the teacher's remaining vacation day at the end of the year. Teachers can still notify after the deadline; they just won't get the incentive.

Non-lapsing account: The school is reviewing the plans for 11 CT school districts. They range from a single paragraph authorizing the account to a multi-page document between BOE and BOF. Some schools give full control to BOE. Others allow accrual of funds but require BOF approval to expend them. Some explicitly call out what the funds can be used for. The regulations allow accruing 2% of the current budget. There can be a cap on the total amount in the fund – typically 3-5% of the most recent budget. Any plan would need to be worked out between BOE and BOF