

BOE Summary Meeting April 5, 2021

Covid Spending Report:

Only change is an additional \$1240.30 spending on Food Service Aides

Unencumbered Funds:

Currently \$157,452.98 = 1.43% This is higher than the norm.

Line Item Adjustments:

O/D SPED tuition – items were in the budget but actuals exceeded expected \$55,857.68

Vocational Transportation – extra expense because Norwich Tech's scheduled days off different than ours so we had to pay for additional busing \$700.92

Plumber – these services were in the budget. An additional \$1000 was needed.

Electrician - \$6000.35 additional cost

Grounds maintenance realized wood chips were needed when playgrounds re-opened (with Covid guidelines) \$2,714.00

Building repairs – mostly to remove gym ceiling tiles and paint ceiling \$11,000

The tiles were put in when the gym was built, Donny was a kid then, so he has no idea why they were put in. They have been falling at random intervals. Had to remove them for safety. The ceiling is being painted because it is ugly without the tiles covering the adhesive. Custodians were trying to do the painting, but Donny realized there was not enough manpower. Painting will be contracted out.

Also the media had to be replaced on the water filter. This was budgeted, but the money was expended when the hot water heater failed

Heating Fuel – they went over the 35k gallons contracted for. \$1755.11

Custodial Supplies lots of extra cleaning \$338.99

Supplies – District Needed a fireproof safe for filing they are very expensive \$1224.85

Software Admin – budgeted items each came in a little over estimate \$5010.04

Software school – Power School \$17,090.00 toward next year's bill

Computers – laptops for 2 administrators died & they had to replace \$3269.15

Salem School Graduation:

Exploring an outdoor graduation. Would have to rent chairs and platform.

ESSER II funding shortfall:

As previously reported, the state is holding Salem harmless for the state error in overestimating our ESSER II fund eligibility. The state will make up the difference from other funds. The school will have to apply for a grant to get them. The state will provide instructions when it is all figured out.

Format for schools next year:

Many districts have told the state that they cannot sustain both distance learning and in school learning for each class. It is not possible to give either group the best instruction when you have stay indoors in front of the camera (no moving around to provide more effective instruction.) Ideas that are being bounced around include have the state or RESCs run the distance classes.

American Recovery Act:

The numbers have still not been released. School is hearing it may be 1-2 more weeks.

Oil Tank Replacement:

The state allows questions on the oil tank grant application for the first 10 days of the month. The school has until Friday to get everything right on the grant. Kim has been very diligently volleying with her contact. If the questions are not answered by Friday, the school will have to wait until the 1st 10 days of May. This is an issue with getting all the tasks done to meet the schedule for the tank removal.

Early Retirements:

Joe will cover all the details in the hiring report for the May packet.

SPED Issues (Donna Gittleman):

As reported last year, The state is developing a new online IEP program. Donna signed Salem up as a pilot district. This means we don't have to pay the fees, and that we get lots of extra support. The system is pretty involved and it is clear that the state will be switching vendors for the final product. Donna plans to "volunteer" her replacement to participate in the program. This will both save the fees and get extra support for someone who is new to the district and the electronic IEP program

Some parents of out placed SPED students have elected distance learning for their children due to Covid. The Department of Developmental Services has been very responsive in helping to secure vaccine for the students that they are involved with. The parents have said that as soon as their students are fully vaccinated, they plan to have them return to their in school placements. That means that Salem will most likely see an increase in special education transportation for the last month of the school year.

K-8 Students (Joan Phillips)

In addition to re-opening the playgrounds, the school has put new rims and nets up on the backboards. These were donated by last year's graduating class.

Outdoor track has started . There is a coach and 2 assistants to manage socially distanced practices. There is at least one meet scheduled. The kids are very excited. It does mean they will be spending some of the money budgeted for spring sports.

The students have been collecting the plastic waste to donate to TREX. They have collected about 60 lbs, which therefore will not be going to the transfer station.

Succession Planning:

The flier looking for candidates has been mailed. Joe will get copies to the BOE.

Facilities:

Mold in downstairs classrooms -Donny is having an engineer come out to further evaluate the problem. The dehumidifiers are not working out well. They are noisy and interfere with teaching.

There are more roof leaks. The contractors will come out and patch them again. Donny assumes this will still be under warranty.

Curb repair will probably be done over spring break (next week)

Lunch and breakfast program:

This year food service has been free for the students (funded by the state. Because there is no food being sold the expenses (for staff etc.) have not been fully covered. Salem had a healthy fund surplus, but no longer does. Salem is one of the few districts in the state that is still in the black. The state is often late with their payments. Kim will probably not know until June, whether or not the school will have to take over a portion of the operating expenses. Kim is not optimistic.

There is talk that FDA will be making a big announcement in April. There is suspicion that it will be universal food for school children next year. This would help address the increased food insecurity issue.