

**Board of Finance Special Meeting
March 6, 2024
Meeting held remotely**

Call to Order: Board of Finance Chair Michael Imber called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Also in attendance were Vice Chair Jeffrey Farr, Rone Baldwin, Theresa Brasco, Chris Bryant, Amy Gare, Jeffrey Goldstein, WPS School Superintendent Lisa Barbiero, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tina Henckel, School Finance Director Phillip Cross, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Tracy Edwards, and BOE Chair Steve Ezzes.

Discussion concerning the Board of Educations proposed budget for FY 2024-25: Mr. Imber introduced Superintendent Barbiero who reviewed a presentation on the BOE's proposed budget for FY 2024/2025. Superintendent Barbiero gave an overview of the BOE budget request highlighting goals for alignment with district initiatives, enrollment analysis, academic programs and resources as well as short and long term capital projects. Overall request for FY 2025 is \$59,598,328 representing a 2.85% increase. The capital budget proposal of \$1,526,500 was discussed encompassing district wide security initiatives, consulting services for facility renovations, district wide maintenance and parking lot paving, HES playground, district energy audit as well as WHS gym wall padding. Other capital budget items discussed were WHS window replacement, air units for HES East House, WHS water heater and faculty room AC, district wide furniture.

Members of the Board of Finance were presented with the opportunity to ask detailed questions on the proposed budget. Responses were given by Superintendent Barbiero, Dr. Henckel, Mr. Cross, Ms. Edwards, and Mr. Ezzes. Discussion took place on additional steps taken to reduce expenses during the budget process. Superintendent Barbiero and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Henckel discussed enrollment projections including low and medium projections, class size guidelines and open seats (28 students decrease) and staffing of those needs. Academic programs and intervention supports were discussed to determine resources and staffing needs. Capital project prioritization for short and long term was discussed as well highlighting safety and security. Staffing, employee benefits, contractual obligations as well as MERS was discussed. SPED services as well as open choice program was discussed. It was noted that SPED costs are driven by individual student needs and are variable. Transportation and cleaning services for FY 2025 discussed. Employee benefits and OPEB reserves were discussed. Future capital expenditures for building configuration (HES &WMS) was discussed by Mr. Ezzes. Capital budget item project requests and RFP's were discussed at length and a historical variance analysis of capital expenditures from 2020-2024 was reviewed. Variances of unallocated amounts and unliquidated encumbrances and how they pertain to budget requests discussed.

Adjournment: Mr. Imber asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Goldstein made the motion, seconded by Mr. Baldwin. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Minutes Submitted By:
Shawn Amato, Recording Secretary