

Board of Finance Minutes
Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

1- **Call to Order:** Chairman Steve Ezzes called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Also in attendance were Board of Finance Members; Allan Grauberd, Dick Bochinski, Rone Baldwin, Amy Gare, Jeff Farr and Greg Murphy, Superintendent Bill McKersie, Assistant Superintendent Mike Rizzo, Board of Education Chairman Tony Pesco, WPS Finance Director Phil Cross and Weston Residents.

2- Pledge of allegiance was recited.

3- **Board of Finance reviews the Board of Education proposed FY 2020/21 budget.**

Chairman Pesco, Dr. McKersie and Mr. Cross all presented the FY 2020/21 budget. Mr. Cross stated this is one of the lowest proposed budget increased the BOE has brought to the BOF in the last 5 years. Mr. Cross pointed out reductions in areas such as IT, Central Office staff, security (shifted from operating to capital), travel and conference expenses, text books and software costs.

Mr. Rizzo and Mr. Cross spoke about special education and transportation cost increases. They explained they are using 3rd party transportation vs in house, which would be more expensive.

Mr. Bochinski asked about dental insurance costs and why the internal service fund is used to offset them. Dr. McKersie explained that the District is aware of the use of the fund. Mr. Cross went on to explain health insurance increases, along with a comparison between state plan and private plan.

Mr. Rizzo explained special education transportation increases, stating this is a state wide issue. Allan Grauberd asked about out of district cost vs in district costs. Ms. Gare asked if we are looking into other 3rd parties for pricing. Mr. Cross said they do plan on doing an RFP.

Dr. McKersie spoke about the capital budget, specifically giving history on the high school roof project. He stated the Building Committee has been overseeing some of these projects.

Mr. Baldwin asked why some of these capital projects were not on the long term projections last year. Mr. Pesco agreed we should have a more formal review of long terms costs. Mr. Grauberd spoke about funding options for the high school roof.

Middle School capital projects were discussed along with possibility of putting those off. Mr. Pesco stated there are still certain things that need to be done for immediate remediation.

Chairman Ezzes asked about administration costs in relation to the decrease and increase of students at different grade levels. Dr. McKersie feels staffing should stay the same for next few years or service level could be affected. Mr. Grauberd recommended they rate all administration according to priority and look at the bottom 10% and do "what if" scenarios. Dr McKersie said they've already made 5 central office staff reductions. Mr. Murphy asked if we have compared administrators to students with other districts. Chariman Pesco compared and we are on the higher end. (Dick Bochinski left the meeting)

Mr. Grauberd asked about class sizes. Chariman Pesco said the BOE feels that is the very last thing they would want to touch.

Ms. Gare asked about using a 3rd party for legal fees. Chairman Pesco and Dr. McKersie responding saying they feel this year was exceptionally high in legal fees and they expect to show a decrease next year.

Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz presented information about the high school roof project along with Albert Jucunski from Jucunski Humes Architects.

Meeting adjourned: at 10:11pm

Minutes submitted by: Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

UNAPPROVED