

Finance Committee Meeting

DATE: March 6, 2017, 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Regional School Unit #19 Central Office

Members Present: Robin McNeil, Evelyn Hickey, Corinna Caron, Samantha Brown, Susie Hopkins, Bill MacDonald

Staff Present: Mike Hammer, Trish Hayes, Maxine Pare, Don Roux, Liz Mares, Mary Nadeau, Lori Merrow, Ellen Surprenant, Josh Grant, Angela Brown, Suzanne Nowinski, Jane Stork

Public: Ryan Parker

1. Public Comments: None
2. Mike discussed the potential loss of state revenue based on the Preliminary ED-279 which the Department of Education rolled out in February 2017. Part of the loss of revenue is due to the decline in enrollment; the rest is due to changes in the budget presented to the legislature – the biggest being the removal of System Administration. Mike updated the committee on the hearing he attended as the Education Committee heard testimony regarding these changes.
3. FY17 Budget status as of February 28, 2017. Trish reviewed the financial statement with the committee. Revenues and spending are mostly on target for this point in the year. Trish and Mike are monitoring some expense accounts which are beyond the 40% mark and have communicated with the administrators the need to continue to closely monitor these accounts. Bill questioned whether we have spent what we have needed year-to-date in regular education. The answer is no. Everyone is still being very frugal and only ordering the necessities in order to help the district move forward. A discussion followed that we cannot continue to operate in this manner and provide a quality education. The Accounts Payable worksheet was reviewed. It was noted that the RSU is up to date on payments to Anthem and Maine State Retirement. There are no outstanding accounts payable. Trish informed the committee that the RSU is back to making weekly payments to vendors. Bill questioned whether we should be making payments so quickly.
4. The administrators were present to comment and make suggestions regarding the revisions to their contracts. Mike presented the new format which everyone agreed more clearly outlined the expectations and benefits. The following topics were discussed: maximum number of sick days allowed to be accumulated; whether or not vacation days can be carried over to the next fiscal year; clarification of holiday as part of expected work days or not. The committee asked that in addition to the elementary and secondary contracts a middle school contract be created.

The budget committee meeting schedule for the next month is:

March 13, 2017, Monday, 6:00, Central Office

March 20, 2017, Monday, 6:00, Central Office

March 27, 2017, Monday, 6:00, Central Office

The March 13, 2017 meeting will focus on Articles 3 (Career & Technical Education), 6 (System Administration), 10 (Debt Service), 11 (All Other).

5. Adjournment – 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Hayes
Business Manager