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| RSU 54/MSAD 54 |
| Educational Policy/Program Committee |
| Minutes |
| March 16, March 23 & April 6, 2021 |
| 6:00PM |
| Skowhegan Area High School - Cafeteria |

March 16, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Bunker - Chair, Amy Rouse - Vice Chair, Maryellen Charles, Jeannie Conley, Goff French, Peggy Lovejoy, Desiree Libby and Lynda Quinn
ALSO PRESENT: Jon Moody, Mark Hatch, Bruce Mochamer, Zachary Longyear, David Dorr, Jean Pillsbury, Steve Gagne, Julie Kimball and Steve Swindells

The Superintendent updated the Committee on how recent rule changes in Federal Procurement have required an update to Policy DJ-R. He let the Board know that it is a required regulation from the federal government. It will be reviewed at the next EPPC meeting to be moved forward to the full Board.

The Superintendent reviewed the individual budgets for Instruction K-12, Student Activities, Guidance, Library, School Administration and for the Somerset Career and Technical Center. This was followed by a summary of how this affects the overall budget.

The Superintendent presented the first draft of a Status Quo Budget. The total budget as presented was \$36,963,989 which includes a \$14,253,545.00 assessment to the local communities, up \$195,334.00 from FY20 for an increase of 1.3895%.

The Committee discussed insurance rates, which have not come out and are not factored into this budget, as well as reductions made to the overall budget to limit the increase on taxpayers. State valuation shifts for the towns will impact individual town assessments and reflect the impact of Skowhegan's reduced state valuation.

The Board asked questions which were answered and discussed by the Superintendent.

The Committee will meet again on March 23, 2021.

March 23, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Bunker - Chair, Amy Rouse - Vice Chair, Maryellen Charles, Derek Ellis, Goff French, Peggy Lovejoy, Desiree Libby and Lynda Quinn

ALSO PRESENT: Jon Moody, Mark Hatch, Erica Thompson, Renee Hovey and Jeremy Lehan

The Superintendent discussed the changes to the Federal Procurement Manual and the Committee had consensus to move it to the School Board meeting on April 15 with a recommendation to adopt the manual as written.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve and adopt the changes to the Federal Procurement Manual as written.

The Superintendent reviewed the individual budgets for Other Instruction (ESL, Alt. Education), Special Education, Health, District Wide Technology, Other Student Support Services(K-12), Improvement of Instruction (K-12) and Adult Education. This was followed by a summary of the overall budget.

The Board asked questions which were answered and discussed by the Superintendent.

The Committee will meet again on April 6, 2021.

April 6, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Bunker - Chair, Amy Rouse - Vice Chair, Maryellen Charles, Goff French, Christy Johnson, Peggy Lovejoy and Lynda Quinn

ALSO PRESENT: Jon Moody, Mark Hatch, David Dorr and Alanna Wacome

David Dorr and Alanna Wacome shared the work that has been done with students at SCTC and the SAHS to gather information for a "Portrait of a Graduate" project. This work will inform the District Leadership Team as they move forward on the district vision. They shared the process that led them to make a video they will use to set the stage for a survey. This student survey will inform future discussions regarding what a graduate should look like as they leave SAHS and SCTC. The video will be sent with a survey out to students in grades 6-12 to collect feedback that will be used to develop our own "Portrait of a Graduate." The Board congratulated SCTC on the effort to engage students in this important work.

The Superintendent reviewed the budget. Since the last meeting SCTC received an increase in state funding. Although this will increase the overall budget, it is important to remember that these are state dollars which will not impact the local taxpayers. The Superintendent shared that insurance rates were released that day and the District is up 0%. The Superintendent reported that although negotiations are proceeding, he likely will not have a final number prior to the adoption of the budget. For that reason, he will work to include modest anticipated increases in the budget. This will be challenging this year because of the state's legislation to move the minimum teacher salary to \$40,000. This impact, which is mandated, has been a challenge for negotiations and will force the teacher increase to be in the neighborhood of 3 to 4%.

As it stands, the overall budget, with the estimated increase, is now at 2.8% (up from 1.3895%). The Superintendent will make reductions in the budget to bring in a number below the 2.8% shared at the meeting. He expects to have an updated draft budget for the Board's consideration at their April 15th meeting.

The Superintendent reviewed the federal funds we have received for COVID relief. The federal relief package includes a "maintenance of effort" clause, which basically means that MSAD 54 must not spend less dollars on education in FY22, 23, or 24 than they did in any of the past three years. Unfortunately this means that federal dollars cannot be used to lower the budget and lessen the local tax burden. The district will continue to use the funds to invest in infrastructure and equipment that avoids future expenses by the district, as well as to focus on learning loss and additional staffing. The Board shared ideas regarding federal spending.

The Board asked additional questions which were answered and discussed by the Superintendent.

The Committee will meet again on May 11, 2021.