

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT
Newville, Pennsylvania

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020

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The Finance Committee of the Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met virtually at 3:30 p.m. with William Swanson, President; Todd Deihl, Vice President; William Piper, Board Secretary; Frank Myers, Robert Over and John Wardle.

Absent: Gutshall

Mr. Wardle left the meeting at 3:52 p.m. due to another commitment.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin C. Roberts, Assistant Superintendent
Richard Kerr, Jr. Business Manager; Robyn Euker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction;
Caleb Barwin, Accounting Controller; Cathy Seras, Minutes

PRESENTATIONS:

➤ **2020-2021 BSSD Budget – Mr. Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager**

- Dr. Fry opened the meeting with an overview of the agenda.
- Mr. Kerr shared the possible savings for the District from March – June, 2020 as well as a possible EIT loss. Mr. Kerr stated that COVID-19 expenses to date is \$163,000. Mr. Kerr concluded that there will be no savings but instead a significant expense.
- Mr. Kerr shared slides on the FY 2021 budget by type and department/function.
- Dr. Fry reminded members that the Vo-Tech number is high due to the construction project at Vo-Tech as well as increases in student numbers.
- Mr. Kerr talked about Big Spring School District's revenue comparison for the State, Federal and Local level. Mr. Kerr communicated percentages on earned income tax and delinquent real estate tax.
- Mr. Kerr continued sharing slides showing state support for block grants, Plancon subsidy, transportation, special education funding, social security and basic education funding.
- Mr. Kerr defined the change/history in real estate tax from 2007 -2021.
- Information was shared on property tax assumptions and property tax projection. The administration and members discussed the property tax projections.
- Mr. Kerr shared projection summary sheets which included the information below. Mr. Kerr defined the general fund with a no tax increase, a tax increase of 1.95% as well as a tax increase of 3.2% increase.
 1. Benefits
 2. Prof. Tech Services
 3. Contracted Carriers
 4. PA Charter School Tuition
 5. Local Revenue
 6. State Revenue
 7. Total Revenues

- Dr. Fry shared history on where the district came from and where it is today.
 1. Dr. Fry communicated; between 2004-2008 the new high school opened, the middle school was renovated, Mt. Rock Elementary School was opened with a closure of three elementary buildings. In 2008 full day kindergarten was added. In 2009 the District employed 256.5 teacher/professionals and to move forward to this year the District has 228 professionals on staff which shows a cut of 28.5 staff and equates to 11% of the professional staff. Dr. Fry also shared that there were three administrators cut under the same time frame which equates to 19% of administrators.
 2. Dr. Fry shared the average class sizes in the elementary schools to date:
 - Kindergarten - 25.5
 - First Grade - 21
 - Second Grade - 20
 - Third Grade – 21
 - Fourth Grade - 21
 - Fifth Grade - 24

Dr. Fry stated that there is zero flexibility at the elementary level to make any cuts. He reminded the Board of School Directors that the only way to balance a budget is people. Dr. Fry shared information at the middle school level. Dr. Fry shared information on high school cuts listed

 - Family Consumer Science was cut;
 - Three Technical Education positions were cut;
 - Two Art positions were cut;
 - Two Physical Education positions were cut;
 - Two English positions were cut;
 - Two Business positions were cut and beyond that there were cuts in every other academic department.
- Mr. Piper asked about the percentage increases to millage rates. The administration and Board of School Directors discussed the millage increases. Mr. Over asked if there were any other cuts to departments or anything else within the district that will be cut for next school year. Dr. Fry stated that there are other cuts and the administration is finalizing those cuts which will be shared at the May 4, 2020 Finance Meeting/Board of School Directors Meeting. There was further discussions regarding staff.
- Mr. Kerr continued with the final slide regarding the General Fund/Projection Summary. He stated that there will be more to come on the budget at the May 4, 2020 Board meeting.
- Mr. Myers asked about professional education services increases. Mr. Kerr and Dr. Fry defined the professional education services increases.
- Mr. Over requested to see increases for 1.5% and 2.5%. Mr. Kerr adjusted a slide to show the increases as requested.
- There was discussions regarding tax freeze at the state level.

The Board Finance Conference Meeting adjourned at **4:06 p.m.**



William L. Piper, Secretary