School Board Committee: Finance Committee
Date: January 25, 2010
Committee Members Present: Clint Cogswell, Chair, Laura Bonk, Kevin Fleming, Bill Glahn
Other Board Members Present: Kass Ardinger, Jack Dunn, Jennifer Patterson, Eric Williams
Administrators: Chris Rath, Rob Prohl, Michele Croteau, Larry Prince, Matt Cashman

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Finance Chair Clint Cogswell opened the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was hear the 2010-2011 Superintendent’s proposed budget.

Superintendent Rath reviewed the budget timeline that will conclude with a Special Board meeting to approve the 2010-2011 budget on March 10, 2010. Rath reviewed some of the District’s work with the 2009-2010 budget, highlighting new District systems that have been implemented; special education addressing autism, literacy instruction and skills; District leadership additions of three new administrators, two part-time assistant principals and a DINI coordinator; and the benefit change in health insurance from self-insured to a premium-based system.

Superintendent Rath identified four priorities for the 2010-2011 budget:

1. Continued improvement of District systems including a new library system, AIMSweb assessment system, PowerSchool student management system and the District website;
2. Meet the needs of students in the English Language Learners (ELL) program with one additional teacher for the ELL program at CHS;
3. Study the District leadership model, specifically reviewing teacher leadership positions and the reduction of fragmentation and integration of regular and special education;
4. Implement the elementary consolidation transition plans, including reassignments and reductions of staff, reductions in the operating budget, and relocation of the Central Office.
Superintendent Rath explained current revenue estimates and current appropriations; the status of the projected amount to be raised by taxes ($42,117,755, which is an increase of $260,718); enrollment history and projections; and salaries, benefits, professional services, purchased property, purchased services, supplies, books, utilities, furniture and equipment, dues, fees and interest. Superintendent Rath emphasized many times that the administration had tried to be as frugal as possible in the formation of this budget.

Business Administrator Michele Croteau explained the charts and graphs that the Board would be receiving in their 2010-2011 budget binders and reviewed the contents of the board binders.

Board members were asked to e-mail questions and requests for information to Finance Chair Clint Cogswell for his review and consolidation for administration.

The major areas identified for further review at this time included:

- District reserves, specifically the medical reserve;
- Health insurance plans, projected costs and budget for 2010-2011
- Consulting services, specifically consultants in the area of autism, and plans to further reduce consulting in this area as the District added and trained staff;
- Bus replacement schedule updated if District is not replacing buses in 2010-2011
- Technology staffing, inventory and proposed budget for 2010-2011
- CHS staffing, particularly class sizes in core areas;
- Organizational chart, District leadership model, personnel changes for 2010-2011
- Projected vacancies for 2010 -2011 and recruiting and hiring process

Committee Chair Cogswell asked the administration to consider the implications of a budget freeze if one were implemented immediately.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Cogswell, Chair
Michele M. Croteau, Recorder

MMR/srr