

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL</b> <b>Meeting Minutes - Monday, December 9, 2019</b></p>
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**Members Present:** Chuck Alan, Lou Bouchard, Sheila Buck, Andrea Catena, Lisa Clar, Christie DeWald, David Drury, Maria Hamilton, Clay Harris, Dan Hentschel, Paul Hoak, Dan Knapp, Nancy Kula, Bob Logel, Cheryl Lomedico, Martha Mack, Brandie Mercado, Darryl Mull, Ken Nelson, Dave Patt, Kahlan Poltorak, Lauren Purvee, Regina DeCarr

**Members Absent:** Karen Arthmann, Tony Bernaruci, Sara Cosgrove, Christopher Dennis, Jason Hyson, Rhonda Morien, Betty Pum, Pamela Reinhardt, Eric Scheele, Jim Schultz, Betsy Skripnik, Dina Stathopoulos

**Ex-Officio Members:** Mary Ann Exler, Nichole LaPlaca, Andy Whitmore, and Bo Wright

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

#### **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & CHARGE TO THE COUNCIL**

Bob Logel will once again chair the Budget Advisory Council for the 2019-20 school year. He began the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking them to introduce themselves and their Rush-Henrietta affiliation. He also read the Charge to the Council. Andy Whitmore spoke about the importance of the input from the members of the BAC to the budget process. Superintendent Bo Wright thanked all of the members for their time and commitment to the BAC.

#### **BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR THE 2019-2020 BUDGET**

Andy Whitmore reviewed the flow chart of planned budget activities for both the BAC and the Board of Education. The BAC will meet four times this year to better align with the timing of available revenue and expense information.

#### **BUDGET OVERVIEW & YEAR OVER YEAR COMPARISON**

Superintendent Wright emphasized the importance of developing a school budget that is educationally sound, equitable, and fiscally responsible. This year's budget process will again focus on the district priorities established at the Leadership Forum held this past summer. Those priorities include Instructional Programs, Special Education, Equity & Inclusion and Mental Wellness.

Andy Whitmore explained that the base budget for 2020-21 projects the cost of maintaining the level of programs and services provided the prior year and shows an increase of 3.8%. The largest projected increases are in salaries and employee benefits, which make up 70% of budgeted expenses.

On the revenue side, Superintendent Wright explained that the tax cap (now permanent) limits the growth of spending we can sustain and we will need to find ways to slow the growth rate in areas where we can. The tax cap may be less than 2% this year due to the low rate of inflation. We are expecting only a small increase in state aid of about 1%. At this time, we are projected a deficit of \$1 million which would have to be covered by use of reserves.

#### **PROGRAM AND SERVICE REVIEW**

Andy reviewed the Composite Budget pages of the Program Service Review document. He spoke to areas with increases of 4% or more. He invited the members of the committee to review the detail pages and email him with any questions so he can respond at the next meeting of the BAC.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 13, 2020 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Exler