

River Grove Elementary
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 2021
5:15 PM - 6:15 PM - Budget Workshop
VIRTUAL

BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
5:15PM -6:15PM

1.0 Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 5:20pm by Chair Dan Miller

1.1 Roll Call

- Members present: Dan Miller, Angie Hong, Marcy Ost, Katie Bruns, Annie Beck, Jessica Hansen, Lisa Dochniak.
- Also in attendance: Drew Goodson, Ele Anderson, Kyle Knudson, and Katherine Hardie.

2.0 Approve Agenda - Beck moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Bruns. Roll call vote. All members voting yes.

3.0 2021-2022 Budget Workshop

- Kyle Knudson presented information from a memo shared with the board earlier in the week.
 - Currently we are projecting a 2% increase in state spending per student but legislative actions will determine what increases we'll actually see. It might end up being less than 2%
 - Our current enrollment for 2021-22 is 223 students
 - The proposed budget includes a reduction in number of paras from 4.25 to 3 FTE - or about 2hrs of para time per teacher per day
 - The newly adjusted budget no longer includes remodeling to build a new classroom so we will be kind of tight on space next year.
 - The budget also includes increases for more legal and other expenses related to the CUP amendment process with May Twp.
- Question: Bruns - what is the rationale for not using our savings to fund remodeling?
 - Goodson: Our goal is to maintain a contingency fund of at least 10% of our budget for emergencies. This past year, we cut into our contingency fund significantly due to COVID so we are no longer above 10%.
 - Knudson: At the moment, we are projecting a \$21K surplus for next year, but that may drop to \$7K if the state only provides a 1% increase in per pupil spending or to only \$500 if we lose 3 students.
- Question: Hardie - If we could remodel to create a new classroom, where would that happen?
 - Goodson: The Upper Sun would be the best location but the remodel would cost ~\$75K so it would be expensive and would require additional approval from May Twp
 - Hardie: Would Homestead work?
 - Goodson: Maybe but it would be a tighter space.
 - Beck: It could maybe work for a larger blended class (ie. 35 kids with two teachers in one space) but not for two separate classrooms
 - Goodson: If we are creative like Beck suggests, we could make better use of the space we have. But we aren't structurally set up to use Homestead that way for next year.
 - Hansen: Are the 5th and 6th grade classes small enough to be together in Homestead next year?

- Anderson: Currently we have 23 enrolled students for 5th grade and 14 for 6th grade for next year
- Goodson: we are budgeting for 223 students for next year, but it's possible we'd have less. He's fairly confident we'll hit that number.
- Hardie: Could the board revise the budget after it's approved if we get additional funds for the remodel later on?
 - Miller: Yes. But it's also a matter of balancing priorities because we've also talked about increasing staff salaries or stipends
 - Goodson: The remodeling is pretty time-sensitive. We can decide to remodel now but probably won't be able to later in the summer
 - Hansen: We should be conservative with building and remodeling right now. We could talk to Jackie Henchen and Erin Deitrich about how they used the Lower Sun when they shared previously.
- Knudson: One remaining topic relates to SpEd instruction. There are some changes to the SpEd budget from previous years.
 - Goodson: Grove will be contracting with Shirley Volk next year for SpEd administration. It will be half the cost as previous years and she has experience working with other local charter schools.
- Ost: Why would we need to pull in funds from our general funds for food service?
 - Knudson: We also have staff costs and potentially equipment expenses for repairs or purchases. Next year's budget also assumes we'll be back in the National School Lunch program. It's also important to track food waste.
 - Goodson: Participation is important. We make money when kids buy lunch instead of bringing their own so it would be good to promote that more.
 - Ost: Sandy can provide lunches for \$2 per kid and we get \$4 per kid from the federal government.
 - Knudson: In a normal year, once the government is no longer providing free lunches to everyone, it is not as advantageous for kids to get school lunch. If the school consistently makes a profit from the lunch program, we'll start getting questions from MN Dept of Education.
 - Beck: In other schools she has worked in, they did attendance in the morning and made sure everyone who ordered lunch was actually at school to eat them.
- Knudson: It would be good to approve the proposed budget as soon as possible so that Goodson can offer staff contracts for next year.
- Ost: Motion to approve the proposed budget as presented. Second by Hong. Roll call vote with all members voting yes. Budget approved.

4.0 Adjournment - Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:17pm