

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RUTLAND CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS – FINANCE/PLANNING COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

September 29, 2020

Committee Members Present:

Joanne Pencak, Chair
Ann Dages
Dena Goldberg
Charlene Seward

Also Present:

Superintendent Bill Olsen
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Director of Finance Ted Plemenos
Director of Buildings, Grounds & Transportation
Michael Derevjanik
Greg Schillinger

Also Present:

Alison Notte
Cathy Solsaa
Erin Shimp

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm.

CALL TO
ORDER

FY 22 Budget Update – Director of Finance Ted Plemenos provided updates and timeline for the FY 22 budget. Mr. Plemenos advised that he learned that the State of Vermont does mandate a public forum within 10 days of the vote and he envisions this for February 25, 2021. He spoke to planning lunch time presentations to civic groups (i.e. VFW, Rotary...) as a means of direct communications with the public, a goal to be in a position for concise discussions with no surprises, preparation of *Frequently Asked Budget Questions*, the handling of December meetings (he noted that it would be good to build in two budget reviews prior to everyone going away for the winter break) and his willingness to present the budget in chunks (Payroll and Benefits, IT, Buildings & Grounds.) He advised that he and Superintendent Olsen have completed meetings/discussions with all principals, the Business Office is working on developing salaries and benefits with a standard salary escalation and will be set up for when final decisions are made and will be able to run through the budget expeditiously. He expects to receive input from the State regarding health insurance sometime in December (with possible revision in January.)

FY 22 BUDGET
UPDATE

Key dates were highlighted:

- March 2, 2021 – Budget Vote
- February 25, 2022 – Suggested Budget Forum
- January 12, 2021 – Regular School Board Meeting
- December 1, 2020 – Potential Special Meeting
- December 8, 2020 – Regular Board Meeting – Preliminary Budget Presentation
- December 15, 2020 – Potential Special Meeting for Budget
- December 23, 2020 – Potential Special Meeting for Budget
- November 17, 2020 – Suggested Special Meeting
- November 10, 2020 – Regular School Board Meeting (Stafford Budget)
- November 5, 2020 (Thursday) – Finance Committee Meeting
- October 29, 2020 – Ted to review budget with Bill and Rob
- October 20, 2020 – Finance Committee Meeting
- October 13, 2020 – Regular School Board Meeting

Discussion revolved around thoroughness and insight into work completed, Peter Amons and Mary Alma Noonan making themselves available (both are committed to making sure the process goes smoothly), planning for salary and benefits (is 80% of the budget) and looking at different scenarios (consumer price indexes, how comfortable are you with the level of compensation in regards to competitiveness.) Killington Corporation is looking at a salary pay freeze for one year. Community lends to how we work for the budget. Discussion ensued regarding COVID 19

related/unbudgeted expenses and expectation for reimbursements (expect 100% requested for FY 20 – a huge gap is not expected.) Superintendent Olsen commended the Business Office for their work related to the Corona Virus. The expectation for more budget oversight and more information accessible throughout the rest of the year (quarterly reports) was noted. Strategic planning will be addressed in January. Ted Plemenos urged Board Members to email him in advance with questions and ideas related to strategic planning. Utilizing social media for budget information communication was discussed. Point of contention with the Board of Alderman and plans for discussion and presentation was discussed. Clarification regarding the February 25, 2020 forum to take the place of the March 2nd meeting was noted (it is equivalent of the meeting the night before the vote as was done in the past.)

**FY 22 BUDGET
UPDATE
(CONT.)**

ADJOURN

Motion by Dages/Goldberg to adjourn at 5:17 pm. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty A. Kapitan, Recording Secretary