

## RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### RUTLAND CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS – FINANCE/PLANNING COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

November 5, 2020

**Committee Members Present:**

Joanne Pencak, Chair

Ann Dages

**Committee Members Absent:**

Dena Goldberg

Charlene Seward

**Also Present:**

Superintendent Bill Olsen

Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss

Director of Finance Ted Plemenos

Melissa Connor, Director

Stafford Technical Center

Director of Instructional Technology Patricia Aigner

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm.

CALL TO  
ORDER

Status of FY 22 Budget Preparation – Melissa Connor provided an overview of the Stafford Technical Center Budget and budget process, noting that 18 different scenarios were developed. It was decided to go with the worst-case scenario and account for a 15% increase in health care cost and 2% increase in salaries and benefits. This scenario includes a 0% increase in tuition and reflects some staffing changes. Superintendent Olsen and Commissioner Dages commended Melissa for her work. Discussion included: recent update from VEHI which reflects closer to a 10% increase in health care costs and concerns related to changes in the Teacher Pension Program.

FY 22 BUDGET  
UPDATE

Director of Finance, Ted Plemenos noted upcoming dates for the budget development and review process:

- November 10, 2020 – Regular School Board Meeting (Stafford Budget)
- November 17, 2020 – Finance Committee Review
- December 1, 2020 – Finance Committee Review
- December 8, 2020 – Regular Board Meeting – Board Review
- December 15, 2020 – Possible Follow-up Board Review
- January 5, 2021 – Draft Ballot Language and FAQ's – Circulation to Board
- January 12, 2021 – Regular School Board Meeting – Approval of Proposed Budget, Ballot Language and FAQs

Chair Pencak noted inviting Commissioners to the December 1, 2020 Committee Meeting.

Mr. Plemenos provided an overview of the budget work completed including, a first pass of most of the major sections: Salary and Benefits, Special Education and Information Technology. Fine tuning adjustments will be made as appropriate over the next several weeks. He is satisfied with the progress to date and will circulate a high-level recap of how things are coming together in a day or two. Goals are: keep the budget flat or down, try and offset necessary expenses related to the pandemic and maintain quality and continuity of educational programming. He noted the FY 2021 Department of Buildings, Grounds and Transportation Budget coming in around 1.8 million dollars, while the FY 2022 preliminary budget is at around 1.7 million dollars, even though an additional \$200,000 in extra expenses related to COVID 19 are anticipated for FY 2022. Patricia Aigner is currently reviewing software licensing to determine if we may be able to retire some licensing to make room for new licensing and applications that will provide continuity for remote and distance learning. Preliminary budget for Special Education, based on Individual Education Plans, looks favorable and the Stafford Technical Center budget reviewed earlier is a big positive. He noted rounds of discussions related to staffing and looking to make sure staffing and resources are well deployed.

Chair Pencak noted that she asked Ted to speak briefly to the grant programs offsetting COVID 19 related costs during the Finance Committee Report at the next Board Meeting.

Chair Pencak noted a time for public comment. Tricia O'Connor asked for clarification regarding the Stafford Technical Center Grant from the beginning of the meeting. Melissa Connor addressed her question, noting that Stafford Technical Center will be receiving around \$374,000 to help navigate through the pandemic.

Motion by Dages to adjourn at 5:01 pm.

**ADJOURN**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Betty A. Kapitan, Recording Secretary