





Agenda Item Details

| | |
|----------|---|
| Meeting | Mar 27, 2023 - REVISED - Regular School Board Meeting |
| Category | 3. Administrative Reports |
| Subject | 3.2 Finance Manager Report |
| Type | Reports |
| Goals |  Efficient Use of Resources  District Excellence |

Impact Aid Program Update

We received two payment this month for Impact Aid. An interim payment for basic support of \$952,793 and a payment for children with disabilities in the amount of \$40,027. This leaves us behind last year's revenues by \$249,988.

Federal Funding Conference

I attended the Federal Funding Conference on February 27 & 28 in Wisconsin Dells. I was able to meet with DPI staff that work on a range of important programs that Bayfield is part of. Some of the workshops I was able to attend are as follows:

- Education Stabilization Funds: ESSER Grants staff from the DPI answered questions and worked with schools on specific topics like budgets and annual reporting.
- Federal Grants Allowable Costs: Reviewed what makes a cost "allowable" on a federal grant and how to determine allowability based on certain factors. The speakers reviewed the requirements on the concept and application of "Supplement / Not Supplant".
- Federal Education Grant Fraud: We looked at some recent education fraud cases across the country and in Wisconsin. The presenter looked into who was involved, why it happened, and how it could be avoided. We also talked about conflict of interest standards and what language those standards must include specific to an award of Federal monies.
- IDEA Maintenance of Effort: Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), every school district must expend the same amount of local funding for special education instruction and related services as it expended in a previous fiscal year. If a school district fails to meet the "Maintenance of Effort" compliance standard, it results in a cash penalty matching the amount it lowered its local spending.

Budget Update

Beth Paap and I continue to meet on budgets weekly with other administrators and supervisors. We are working towards a budget that will support our strategic plan and support quality instructional programming to address the needs of our students. Facilities improvements are a significant part of our budget planning and we will continue to work with and support Joel Shilman's efforts to create a 10-year building facility plan.

With federal ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds set to expire next year, I am worried about a fiscal cliff. During the past two decades, from 2002 to 2020, Wisconsin's spending per pupil fell from 11th among the fifty states to 25th. That was the largest drop in ranking of any state in the country. That was before state lawmakers advised school districts to use ESSER funds to maintain school operations, providing little new in state support for public education. This is one of the reasons many school boards are looking to go to referendum now; to offset expanding inflation and to provide some predictability in their budgeting. The level of commitment of state funding is still unknown and planning for the next year is well underway. Below is a list of referendums that will be happening on the April election:

- 82 school referendums scheduled
- 29 referendums to issue debt (a total of \$674,915,000)
- 10 referendums to exceed the cap on a recurring basis (\$40,840,000)
- 43 referendum to exceed the cap on a non-recurring basis (\$432,911,000)

The budget struggle isn't just a Bayfield School District problem, it's a Wisconsin problem.

Other

- Continue WISEdata Finance setup.
- Continue High Cost Special Education Program application process.
- ESSER and Geer annual reporting requirements.
- Meeting with Northern School District Trust regarding health insurance.
- HR committee meeting.
- CPI cost out.
- Payrolls

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda.