

Budget and Finance Committee Notes
Monday, December 15, 2008

Attending: Board Members Burke, Garrity, Luccarelli and Wetmore; Administrators Duncan, Mikos and Petrizzo.

2009-10 Budget All first round budget defenses are complete. Administrators are working to produce flat budgets for the 3rd year in a row. Staffing needs are to be shown separately. Wish lists items are assigned A, B or C priority. All Administrators know further cuts may be required.

A bill in the NJ legislature to eliminate a public vote on under-cap budgets has the potential to pass. As currently drafted, it would also move BOE elections to November.

We are hoping for flat state aid, rather than a reduction. With the current housing market, an increase in valuation appeals may occur.

2008/2009 Health Benefit Waiver/Opt-out -- Update: So far, utilization rates are not what we had anticipated. A few employees who had opted not to take our coverage in the past, opted in this year in order to take the paid opt-out. The opt-out is a novel concept. As people grow accustomed to the idea, more may choose to participate.

Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP – Proposal: This firm offers a policy and procedure review and update service. They have an excellent reputation and are prompt in responding to legislative and regulatory changes. A complete initial review of our policies and procedures would cost \$16K. The ongoing annual service has a \$2K one time set up fee, and runs \$2.4K - \$4K per year, depending on the services we desire. The committee thinks this proposal deserves serious consideration, but should only be funded if we realize cost savings in some other area.

2009 Payroll Changes: Eff. 1/1/09, our employees will see three changes in their payroll stubs. (1) The state has created a Family Leave Insurance Program, funded with a payroll deduction of .09% on the first \$28,900 of taxable wages. (2) Payroll Verification -- employees must provide a picture ID and sign for their Jan. 30 payroll checks, per the new accountability regulations. We will take this opportunity to distribute 2008 W-2 forms, postage-free. (3) New tax sheltered annuity 403(B) regulations take effect, which were covered in November's B&F Committee Notes.

Township Shared Service Request – Drug & Alcohol Coordinator: The township receives a grant which pays for the bulk of the coordinator's salary. They would like us to pay 50% of the \$6,764 remainder, beginning in 2008. The coordinator provides significant services to our students, so the committee recommends that we reimburse \$3,382 to the township for this cost, and continue sharing the overage in the future.

Other Matters:

Advertising policy: briefly discussed handling of debatable requests

Transportation aid-in-lieu: Robin shared the B&G Committee's deliberations

Next Meeting: Monday, January 26, 2009, at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Garrity