

RSU 54/MSAD 54
SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE
Minutes
Thursday April 6, 2023 at 6:00 pm
SAHS Purple-Rm 8/9

Members Present: Jean Franklin Chair; Mark Bedard Vice Chair; Daniel Frey; Bruce Hurley; Desiree Libby; Cheyenne Goodrich; Sara Smith; Julian Payne
Also Present: Lynda Quinn; Amy Rouse; Jon Moody; David Leavitt

1. Project Updates

Support Services Director reviewed projects including federal ESSER II and III and the State revolving renovation grant projects. The committee discussed the progress of the four projects underway: Bloomfield window replacement, Canaan air quality and electrical upgrades, high school elevator installation and the SAMS addition. All projects are currently on schedule with the exception of the middle school; that project will likely be a couple of weeks behind schedule, but will still fall within the parameters of the grant. The district has worked very hard to leverage federal and state funds to improve safety, air quality, and energy efficiency in our buildings.

2. Budget Review

The Superintendent discussed the state error on school funding which increased district-wide state aide by \$581,000.

The Superintendent reviewed the FY24 Budget. The original draft budget increased from 2.44% to 3.59% primarily as a result of increased health insurance costs. Health insurance increased by 5.763%, up nearly \$400,000 in the FY24 budget, accounting for roughly 70% of the local-only increase to the budget. Special Education costs increased by just over \$50,000, which accounted for the remainder of the increase from the draft budget previously presented to the board.

The final draft budget includes \$1,615,000 in carryover funds to reduce local property taxes. With the increased State Aid and impact of health insurance, the district was able to reduce the local only portion of the budget by \$166,836.66.

3. Other

The committee discussed the concept of additional SRO's (School Resource Officers) at length. Costs range significantly based on where the SRO would be located/jurisdiction. The Somerset County Sheriff's office estimated a cost of roughly \$250,000/year including startup costs. Skowhegan PD is less but does not have jurisdiction in Norridgewock, Mercer, Canaan, Cornville, or Smithfield. Further discussion is needed on the issue to determine potential options.

Next Meeting
May 4, 2023
SAHS Purple-Rm 8/9
6:00 PM