

MBS PTO

2/8/18

Attending: Jaycie Puttlitz, Trish DiFonzo, Bonnie Domachowski, Margaret Brown, Ryan Kluk, Lily Eastman, Katie Marchessault, Mindy Demeo, Julie Benay

Ms. Minor presented information about the 2018-2019 school budget. Key points:

1. Enrollment in Colchester is NOT declining. We will remain at about 2100 students for the next 10 years, according to a recent report by a demographer (based on birth rate).
2. We currently have 60 tuition students who bring in tuition dollars. The 2100 figure does not include tuition students.
3. School District policy allows for class sizes up to 30, but the current board supports class sizes that comply with the VT Educational Quality Standards (EQS). This is 20 students K-3 and 24 students in grades 4-12.
4. Ms. Minor shared our current and projected class sizes. If we stay with the same number of teachers that we have now, we are slightly above EQS in some classes in Grades 1, 3, 4 and 5. "Overall, I think we are 'right sized' for the number of students we have."
5. However, as the current 5th grade moves to CMS, we will have class sizes of 29 or 30 students per classroom.
6. Ms. Minor discussed "ratios" as defined by the State and the Governor. The Governor refers to "ratio," which accounts for ALL certified adults in a building, including the nurse, special educators, guidance, etc. Gov. Scott talks about a "student:staff" ratio, which counts all adults. He recommends 1:5. Our schools are already at or above that ratio.
7. Colchester is the lowest spending per pupil in the region. This year Winooski is a little lower, but they only purchase limited bussing for their tech students. Considering that bussing is a big part of the Colchester budget, we are in fact the lowest spending district in the region.
8. The bussing and health care costs went up 10%. Thus, if we simply move everything we have now forward, it is an increase of 3.81%. The administrators then made some reductions, and brought this down to 3.44%.
9. The biggest factors affecting the tax rate are not within local control. There are two components of the state funding formula (Common Level of Appraisal and Dollar Yield) that were not set until January. Colchester CLA went down, as did the dollar yield. This resulted in an estimated tax rate increase of 9.887% or 14.36 cents. Every year the state changes the dollar yield. Last year they changed it in July, resulting in a drop in what we expected to pay.
10. The CLA is what homes in Colchester are going for. If the CLS goes up, your taxes go down. This year, the CLA went down AND the state is estimating a lower dollar yield.
11. If we tried to zero out the tax rate, we would have to cut 17 teachers, and the estimated tax increase would only go down to 5.5%.

The slides that go with these notes are available on the District website.

12. All the buildings in the District had requests for additional items that would enhance our ability to meet student needs. The only additions approved were at CMS because of the large class sizes.
13. The administrators presented four different options to the Board. The tax rate just doesn't change that much between adding new positions or not adding anything at all. This is because of those two powerful factors: CLA and Dollar Yield, neither of which the Board controls.
14. The Board supported adding 2.2 FTE positions at CMS and a small amount of administration time. They also reduced 1.0 FTE across the District. The difference between adding one teacher and adding 2.2 teachers was \$2 on your taxes.
15. In all, we reduced \$85,000.
16. Our per pupil spending is still low in Chittenden County - 2.99% per pupil. This is what the ballot will reflect. We can't vote on the tax rate because it is going to change, so voters are asked to consider the per pupil increase, which won't change.
17. The Town is considering appealing the CLA. If we can get the CLA up, the tax rate will go down a bit.

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Lucky Day

March 16th 6:30 - 8:00

Julie and Lily reviewed the games offered in the past and made some revisions. We want to add in some throwing games/targets. Jaycie moved and Mindy seconded a motion to give Lily an amount not to exceed \$200 for new throwing targets.

Julie recommended new decorations. Lily offered to shop for new decorations, teaming up with Mindy and Katie. Jaycie moved and Trish seconded an amount not to exceed \$150.00.

Trish will do snack bar sign up

Julie will do game volunteer sign up

Gift cards:

3 to Justice (\$10 each) - did not accept credit cards, had to use checking Claire's is another option.

4 to Subway (\$10 each)

3 to Toys R Us (\$10 each)

Derek from Lake Monsters

How the fundraiser works: Packets with flyers go out to students, students try to sell discounted tickets (\$7 instead of \$8) \$2.50 goes back to MBS PTO. There is no minimum ticket sale.

Tickets purchased through this fundraiser can be exchanged for any other night in the summer.

Packets will go home March 12th. Margaret Brown is the PTO parent in charge.

Seed Sale

We'll send home black and white copies of the seed catalog but encourage online sales. Sale will run from 2/16 through 3/6.

Outback night

Trish will look into the fundraiser for "Outback" night

Odyssey of the Mind

Memberships have already been paid \$135.00 for five teams

Two teams want to work on the same problem, so an additional fee has to be paid. They need an additional \$100.00. This is within the \$500 budget, so the additional amount is approved.

Trish moved and Margaret seconded approval of the additional request.

Parent-teacher conference meals

Lily will ask teachers what they are interested in for a meal, as long as we stay within the amount spent in November.

Yearbook

Jaycie will send a direct link so that Julie can email 5th grade parents about purchasing an ad.

Paper orders were due by February 2nd. Online orders are due 2/23 (the site will close).

Orders get processed over school break. First deposit is due by the first of March. By 2/26, Jaycie has to give a final count. She anticipates about 300, but she won't know until pre-orders are all counted.