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The Fairfield Area School Board met on Monday evening, May 8, 2023 at 6:05 p.m. in the district boardroom for a Board Study Session. The following members were in attendance: Mrs. Jennifer Holz, presiding; Mrs. Lauren Clark, Mr. Matthew DeGennaro, Mrs. Lashay Kalathas, Mr. Jack Liller, Mrs. Candace Ferguson-Miller, Mr. Ted Sayres and Mrs. Lisa Sturges. Also present were Ms. Nicole Steele, Technology Director; Mr. Tim Stanton, Business Manager; Mr. Brian McDowell, High School Principal; Mr. Justin Hoffacker, Middle School Principal; and Attorney Gareth Pahowka, Solicitor. Absent were Mrs. Kelly Christiano, Board Member; Mr. Thomas Haupt, Superintendent; and Mrs. Sonja Brunner, Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Special Education & Student Services.

**Presentations/Reports:**

The following individuals are responsible for updating the board on the current operations of their supervised areas. If you would like their full report, please follow this link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEPDJP9udALGyQSlPPBEbCvcT-62mW2sY

* Superintendent
* Business Manager

Mrs. Jennifer Holz expressed condolences for the passing of a Fairfield District employee, Sherrie Sanders.

Mrs. Jennifer Holz acknowledged that it was Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked the teachers for their dedication to their profession.

**Public Comment** **Agenda Items** – No public comment

**Study Session Topics**

1. ACTI Budget Presentation

Shawn Eckenrode, Administrative Director of the Adams County Technical Institute, reviewed the 2023-2024 ACTI General Fund operating budget in the amount of $1,649,918. In 2023-2024 the staff of ACTI will move from being employees of the

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Gettysburg School District to ACTI. Due to this change, there are some variances between the proposed budget and the 2022-2023 budget. Mr. Eckenrode stated that 85% of ACTI’s budget is related to salaries and benefits. Mr. Eckenrode reviewed the challenges of transferring employees that were removed from the self-insured plan of the Lincoln Benefit Trust and finding equivalent insurance which was affordable. The increase in costs to the district is being driven by the increased costs of medical insurance as well as technology services. The annual increase cost to the Fairfield Area School District will be $14,581. Fairfield’s current annual cost is $130,125 which will increase to $144,706.

The ACTI budget will be placed on the Board agenda of May 22, 2023 for consideration of the Board.

1. Board Policy 249: Bully/Cyberbullying Update

Mr. Brian McDowell, High School Principal and Mr. Justin Hoffacker, Middle School Principal did a presentation to the Board on proposed changes to Board Policy which will be on a future Board agenda for adoption.

It was reviewed with the Board the steps that are taken when an incident is reported and the involvement of the threat assessment team when necessary.

It was discussed that the policy contains a section that retaliation relating to a report or investigation is subject to disciplinary action.

A discussion was held on the responsibilities of the Administration in handling bullying incidences and the responsibilities of the Board.

1. 2023-2024 Budget Presentation

Mr. Tim Stanton, Business Manager, gave a presentation to the Board on the proposed 2023-2024 budget. He reviewed the Act 1 index stating that the base index represents the rate of change in compensation which is calculated by the Commonwealth.

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of PA. There is an adjustment to the base index based on the relative wealth of the district.

Mr. Stanton stated that since the Act 1 index is capped that districts need to be strategic and not get into a position where they need a tax increase in excess of the index.

Mr. Stanton stated that the Act 1 index for FY24 for the Fairfield Area School District is 4.80% with the maximum millage of 11.6647. His recommendation for consideration to the Board was to increase the current millage from 11.1305 to 11.5757. Currently Fairfield has the lowest millage in Adams County and did not adjust the millage in FY23.

Mr. Stanton reviewed that in FY24 the district would be spending $1,902,320 on capital projects which represented the roof work and renovation of the gym, and these funds should eventually be replaced by funding the committed fund balance.

Mr. Stanton reviewed the projected revenues and projected expenditures for FY24. The revenue projections did not include a millage increase and the expenditure projections did not include the capital projects of $1,902,320. Based on those projections the district had a deficit draft budget of $88,640. The projected revenues are $20,818,595 and projected expenditures of $20,907,235.

Mr. Stanton reviewed that $374,533 of ESSER grant revenue was included in the budget for FY24 which would be the last year revenue would be received from this grant. Mr. Stanton provided an estimate of $176,000 that would be a reoccurring expenditure in the FY25 budget that was previously funded by these grant funds.

The budget will be placed on the May 22, 2023 Board Agenda for Board consideration to adopt a 2023-2024 proposed final budget.

**Adjournment**

All were in favor following a motion by Mrs. Lauren Clark and a second by Mr. Jack Liller to adjourn the General Board meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mrs. Jennifer Holz Mr. Tim Stanton

President Board Recording Secretary

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