



Board of Trustees
Budget and Finance Committee

Lincoln Center
And via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, December 10th, 2024
12:00pm

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Trustees:

Janet Armstrong, Committee Chair
Rachel Robison, Committee Member

Others:

Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Jane Shawn, HEA President
Keri Mizell, Human Resources Director
Rex Weltz, Superintendent
Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Gary Myers, Director of Educational Technology
Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager
Lona Carter, Student Health Services & Special Education Director
Karen Ogden, Communications Officer
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Tim McMahon, Activities Director
Hanna Warhank, Guest of the Public

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by Trustee Rachel Robison. Following the call to order, members of the Budget and Finance Committee and other attendees introduced themselves.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed and accepted the 11.12.24 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Budget to Actual Reports

Mrs. Janelle Mickelson, Business Manager, reviewed the budget to actual reports for the elementary general fund and high school general fund with the Budget and Finance Committee. Mrs. Mickelson reported that the district is currently performing better than at this time last year in terms of the general fund balances. At the same point last year, the elementary general fund had approximately 9.8% remaining, while the high school general fund had 11.8% remaining. This year, the elementary general fund has 13% remaining, and the high school general fund has 16.7% remaining. Mrs. Mickelson also pointed out a substantial variance in rentals, which was determined to be a miscoding, and she will make the necessary corrections.

Mrs. Mickelson addressed questions from the Budget and Finance Committee regarding the budget to actual reports and moved on to review the interlocal fund financial activity.

B. Interlocal Fund Financial Activity

Mrs. Mickelson reviewed the interlocal fund financial activity report with the committee. The district began the year with approximately \$6 million in available funds. To date, approximately \$2 million has been spent, which aligns with the anticipated usage. This spending is progressing as expected across the district, although it is difficult to predict the exact final expenditures, as individual buildings may either exhaust their allocated funds or transfer additional amounts depending on their ongoing projects. Additionally, there remains a substantial balance in the Special Education (SPED) fund. Initially, there were concerns about the expenditure of

these funds due to staffing changes, but it is now anticipated that these funds will begin to be utilized for upcoming needs and events. Mrs. Mickelson addressed questions from the Budget and Finance Committee regarding the interlocal fund financial activity report.

C. STARS Funding Update

The Budget and Finance Committee concluded the meeting with a robust discussion about STARS funding and discussed how the STARS funding proposal represents a shift in how Montana addresses educational funding.

VI. BOARD COMMENTS

There were no further comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Janet Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.