

Suffield Board of Education
Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2014
5:00 p.m.
Central Office Conference Room

Present: Scott Schneider, Mary Roy, Jeanne Gee, Bob Eccles, Lori D'Ostuni, Ed McAnaney, Mel Chafetz, Karen Baldwin, Phil Russell, Jim Collin,

I. Call to Order: 5:15 p.m.

II. Review of State and Federal Grants including Open Choice projection, Security Grant, and Technology Grant

- The December 2013 monthly financial report of the 2013-2014 Federal and State Grants was distributed to members for review. Dr. Collin explained the IDEA and Title I & II disbursement rules.
 - Open Choice Program Grants received
 - The Board adopted a policy framework in September 2013 to guide how the Choice Grant would be used in the district.
 - The purpose of the grant is to improve outcomes and opportunities for all children and provide specific supports for Choice students.
 - Academic and Social Support Grant (Choice) of \$179,675 – grant application process and SDE review
 - Open Choice Attendance Grant – Reimbursement per Choice enrollee
 - Phil Russell reviewed the 2013-2014 Open Choice Grant - \$597,314
 - The 2013-2014 Choice Grant along with Federal IDEA grant (12/14) were used to help address budget shortfalls in 2013-2014 operating budget
 - The SDE has not formally requested seat declaration for the district but it is anticipated soon.
 - Currently 91 Open Choice students
 - Based on current enrollment in the district, 91 students is the 3% threshold
 - There is a lot of variability in this reimbursement formula
 - Projected 2014-2015 grant amounts were reviewed
- Improvement of programming in Unified Arts at the Middle School is a priority in the budget. Unified Arts helps to connect students to their future in areas like technology, arts, music, and computer science. At present, Suffield Middle School does not have a full complement of Unified Arts experiences for students.

- Security Grant – Homeland Security Grant was announced to all school districts and the process outlined in May 2013. The district applied for the grant on time and was awarded \$1,338,788. The district needs to spend 25% of the grant awarded for initial reimbursement, or \$334,697. To date the district has spent \$110,722. An additional \$223, 975 needs to be spent to qualify for the initial reimbursement.
 - The committee inquired if the timeline could be extended to cover more than the 2014-2015 budget year.
 - ACCE is very supportive of the Security Grant. Opportunity to get early/timely answers

III. Magnet School Tuition

- A display of current magnet school placements and the projected 2014-2015 tuition costs was presented.
- 18 out of 40 students are part-time
- Tuition costs for previous years and 2014-2015 projection were provided

IV. Cafeteria program review

This item was tabled until the next subcommittee meeting.

Future Agenda Items:

Cafeteria Purchased Services
Utilities (electricity)

It was discussed to schedule additional subcommittee meetings for February 11, 2014 and February 13, 2014.

Meeting adjourned: 7:05 p.m.