Budget Levy Committee

March 16, 2022 / 5:00 PM / MSD Boardroom

# Notes

* Kim Whitworth, Acting Superintendent, gave an overview of the plan for the meetings
* Introductions
* Norms - 7 Norms of Collaboration handout
* The Monroe Commitment
* What is the charge of the budget advisory committee?
  + Consider budget reductions of $14 million in one of four broad areas within school district operations:
    - Facilities
    - Activities and Athletics
    - Teaching, Learning, and Special Services
    - Programs, Staff, and Administration
  + The committee will discuss recommendations and provide feedback to the administration in these meetings that will inform final budget proposals to the school board.
* Guiding Principles
  + Recognizing that no levy collections for the 2023 calendar year impacts two fiscal years, the budget planning process reflects the reality that reductions will be deep in their impact on all programs, staff, and students. As a result, decisions will be guided by the following principles:
    - Program and budget reductions will be as removed from students and classrooms as possible.
    - We will use an equity lens as we make decisions to identify barriers to learning to be avoided or mitigated.
    - Available resources will be focused on preserving those systemic and emergent needs prioritized as most essential to sustaining the operations of the District.
    - Along with one-time expenditures that are deemed non-essential to the operations of the district in the coming school year, reductions must include, to the greatest extent possible, multi-year obligations that account for projected shortfalls beyond 2022-2023 school year.
* Who makes up the budget levy committee?
  + Students
  + Monroe Principals Association
  + Monroe Education Association
  + Public School Employees
  + Public School Employees – Office Professionals
  + Cabinet
  + Chair of Citizens’ Committee for Levy
  + School Board ex officio
* Budget timeline
* What makes up our general fund revenue?
  + 74% State
  + 15% Levy
  + 9% Federal money
  + 1%Local non tax
  + 1% Other
* What do State funds pay for?
  + State funding is the largest source of funding for our school operations. Student enrollment drives the amount of state funding received for:
    - Staff Certificated & Classified
    - Programs & Curriculum
    - Supplies & Services
* What is the prototypical funding model?
  + On average, the Monroe’s allocation is $9,657.22 per student in the 2021-2022 school year
  + The Legislature designed a funding formula that allocates funding in three primary groups:
    - Schools
    - District-wide support
    - Central administration
  + The average additional special education per pupil amount is $9,637.22 for the school year 2021-22.
* Prototypical School Funding (Enrollment drives funding)
  + Class Sizes
  + Funding Ratios
  + School Funding
* Less flexible funding
  + State Funds - Other programs
    - Special Education
    - Learning Assistance Program (LAP)
    - Transitional Bilingual Instructional Education (TBIP)
    - Highly Capable Program
    - Pupil Transportation
  + Federal Funds - Other programs (driven by prior years enrollment)
    - The amount and program designation varies from district to district depending on the needs of the students. Typically, federal dollars pay for a percentage of:
      * Vocational Programs
      * Special Education
      * American Indian Education
      * Food Service Programs
      * Special Grants
  + Local Funds - Other
    - Snohomish County
      * Monroe Community Coalition
    - Donations
    - Food Service
    - Student Fees
    - Facility Use Fees
    - Local Levies
* Local Levies
  + Local Funds For Local Priorities – Levy Measures
    - Levies must be approved by taxpayers in the school district for the amount and duration provided on the ballot
    - Levy measures may be run on either the February, April, August, or November ballots
    - Levy measures may only be presented to voters twice in a calendar year
    - Once approved, taxes may be collected the following year. A measure approved in 2021 can be collected in 2022
    - If the measure is not approved, then tax dollars may not be collected
* Schools collet only what voters approve
  + Property values may rise or fall but, according to state law, schools collect no more than the total dollar amount voters approve
  + When property values rise then rates go down and, conversely, if property values fall then rates rise to ensure property taxpayers only contribute the amount approved by voters
  + By law, school districts can only run program levies for a maximum of four years
  + Levies must be approved by 50% plus one vote
* What is our work since the Feb Levy failed?

# Attachments

* Powerpoint
* 7 Norms of Collaboration

# Action Items

* Next week we will be looking at real numbers. (March 23, 2022)
  + Think about what questions you have
  + Ideas for cost reductions?
  + Some things are a necessity and some are choices. What choice items can be reduced?
  + Small group discussions on potential reductions in 4 major budget areas
  + Review of group work as a committee
  + We will ultimately use these recommendations to guide a budget proposal to be reviewed by the board on April 18th