

**BUDGET ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes - Monday, January 22, 2018**

**Members Present:** Karen Arthmann, Ashish Behal, Sheila Buck, Andrea Catena, Sara Cosgrove, Rhonda Delaney, Mary Ann Exler, William S M Hall, Maria Hamilton, Clay Harris, Dan Hentschel, Paul Hoak, Bob Logel, Randy Naughton, Ken Nelson, Theresa Ottman, Norai Pisano, Jamye Potucek, Pam Reinhardt, and Jay Schickling

**Members Absent:** Chuck Allen, Bob Bower, David Drury, Steve Fazio, Nancy Kula, Marissa Logue, Cheryl Lomedico, Robert Marks, Brandi Mercado, Eliseo Mercado, Tracy Peters, Heather Roth, Millie Sefranek, Dina Stathopoulos, Heather Towne, and Kailee Vick

**Ex-Officio Members:** J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Paula Sharlow, and Andy Whitmore. Sue Smith (Absent)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2018-2019 BASE BUDGET PROGRAM & SERVICE REVIEW**

Bob Logel asked if anyone had questions about the Program & Service review document that was discussed at the last meeting. There were no questions.

**VOTER EXIT SURVEY**

Andy Whitmore reviewed the results of the exit surveys from the May 2017 budget vote. The number one concern was the lateness of the budget newsletter mailing. The problem rested with our mailing service; however, extra attention will be given this year to the mailing process. Andy also mentioned that the comments were not "scrubbed". Andrea Catena asked about the non-budget comments - are other departments notified of these concerns? Dr. Graham said that comments are addressed to different departments to make adjustments if warranted.

**TAX CAP & REVENUE PROJECTIONS**

Andy walked the group through the preliminary revenue budget estimates, which reflect our current State Aid runs from the Governor's budget proposal. The numbers are good news for us. Andy also stated that normally the State Legislature adds funding for education, however, this year, they (the Legislators) were not optimistic that funds for education would increase over the Governor's proposal.

With the Tax Levy Cap Calculation, the estimated tax rate increase will be 1.92%. The BAC agreed with this rate.

**BUDGET DEVELOPMENT STATUS REPORT #2**

Dr. Graham reviewed the latest budget status, highlighting the fact that we have \$300k additional revenue that helps to close the budget gap. The increase in State Aid, along with approximately \$200k in expense reductions brings the current gap (difference between revenues and expenses) to \$1.1M. The expense reductions were reviewed within the Budget Development Framework. The Framework is designed to slow down the rate of expenditures to help with budget development in future years.

Expenditure reductions that were reviewed and approved by the BAC are:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| • Freeze on discretionary spending (Removal of the inflation adjustment of 1.6%) | (\$58K) |
| • Athletic Game Supervision  | (\$ 3K) |
| • Special Education Transportation Takeback                                      | (\$50K) |
| • BOCES Email Support  | (\$46K) |
| • BOCES Distance Learning  | (\$19K) |
| • Family Services (Supplemental Services moved to Title III Funding)             | (\$ 5K) |

Dr. Graham also mentioned that for future budget considerations, if the district needed to break the tax cap, the voters in this community would be supportive; however, they would be forfeiting their tax refund check. He has met with State Legislators, asking them to propose legislation that would "un-couple" the two. If the will of the people says that they agree to override the tax cap, why take away their rebate tax check? Dr. Graham provided the BAC with a listing of our Legislators and the topics discussed with them.

**BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Chris Barker, Director of Student Management was on hand to present to answer questions on this proposal to purchase a new Visitor Management System. The new system is called Raptor, and replaces our current system which has become obsolete. The vendor no longer supports our current system. Raptor is a much more robust system, including features such as:

- Screens against the registered sex offender database in all states
- Can be customized by building for custody alerts and/or banned visitors
- Volunteers (once approved for any building) are approved for all buildings
- Customizable alert buttons

After much discussion the BAC voted to approve the proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held at the Dee Strickland Conference Room on Monday, February 26, 2018. The January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting was canceled.

Respectfully submitted,

*Paula Sharlow*