

Monroe School District #1J  
Budget Committee Meeting  
Held at Monroe High School  
May 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Robert Warden.

Members present: Abbey Gamache, Jessica Warden, Greg Wright, Bob McCune, Tony Stroda, Robert Warden, Jennifer Gamache, Nancy Burnett, Mylrea Estell, Superintendent Russell Pickett, Business Manager Corinne Klein. Absent: Hazen Parsons.

Abby Gamache was appointed as Budget Committee Chair. Jessica Warden was appointed as Budget Committee Secretary.

Russell Pickett gave a presentation outlining all Revenue and Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs (MSOCs). He explained that he looks at the totals across the board for revenue and MSOCs for the district, rather than revenue and expenditures divided into categories.

Budget Committee Members asked the following questions:

How is the PERS UAL looking in the future? Mrs. Klein explained that the district's advisor would like the district to have two years worth of funding. She explained that she is not very comfortable with that but wants to set aside as much as we can.

What are the CET funds? Corinne Klein explained that excise taxes are collected by the County for major maintenance and construction projects within our district.

Why have sports increased so much? Mr. Pickett explained that referees and umpire costs have gone up and the School Board approved an increase and unfreezing coaching salaries. Extra Duty Contracts also include activity advisors (not just coaches).

It was pointed out that the District benefit packages are over 50% of salaries. Why have insurance costs raised and salaries raised not so much? Russell Pickett explained that the cost of Moda insurance packages have gone up. Another reason is just part of what is negotiated with the employees. Also, according to the Affordable Care Act, if we have substitutes working a certain amount of days we will have to offer them benefits and a right to insurance.

Mr. Pickett explained that he is restructuring the accounting of educational assistants so their salaries come from one area and are not split between areas.

The Summer Food Program has been approved and renewed. The program includes breakfast and lunch for anyone birth to 21 years free of charge.

MSOCs (budget object numbers 300, 400, 500, and 600) were reviewed.

GED services: If a student finishes we get credit for graduation.

Is it better to bring someone in to train the staff for in-service? Mr. Pickett explained that, yes, generally speaking, it works out better that way. The teachers are more comfortable in their environment and can train all teachers at once.

It was suggested we use the Strengthening Rural Families to help teach kids and parents about using the internet and internet safety.

Do we have classrooms for Kindergarten next year? Mr. Pickett suggested two options, one of which was an old music room.

Robert Warden made the motion to pass the budget as presented. Jennifer Gamache seconded. Voted and passed.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 PM.

Jennifer Warden, Budget Committee Secretary  
Abby Gamache, Budget Committee Chair