

Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2012

BMS Home Economics Room

RSU 1 Board Members: Tim Harkins, Chet Garrison

Community Representatives: Stephen August, Paul Gamache

Staff: Debra Clark, Ruth Moore, Patrick Manuel

Members of the public: William Perkins, Julie Rice

Patrick updated the committee about the current budget situation. The district was projected to receive \$900,000 more in state aid than last year in the fall with approximately \$750,000 allocated to debt service. Recently, the district learned that it is now projected to receive \$1.4 million more in state aid compared to last year with approximately \$750,000 allocated to debt service. This means the district is receiving approximately \$500,000 more than we expected in state aid. The district was projecting a \$1 million reduction to offset decreased revenue and increased costs, but with the anticipated additional \$500,000 in state aid, the district is expecting to have to make reductions in the target of \$450,000.

The budget community survey was distributed to members. The results have now been posted to the RSU 1 website.

The budget process was reviewed by the committee. There was a discussion about how information will be presented by principals/directors to the finance committee. Paul asked if we could provide information on the percentage of each line spent to date.

Committee members discussed areas to explore for costs savings. The importance of contingency was brought up despite this difficult budget year.

Next meeting – **March 5th at 7:30** in the BMS Home Economics Room