

Skaneateles Central School District
Board of Education

Audit, Budget, and Finance Advisory Committee

Minutes

02/26/20

The meeting came to order at approximately 5:30 PM with the following in attendance:

Board of Education Members: Michael Kell, Geralyn Huba

Advisory Committee Members: Susanne Guske and Christine Burgher

District Members: Christine DeMass

Mrs. DeMass opened the meeting with a review of the agenda. Mrs. Huba advised she would be reporting back to the full board.

Mrs. DeMass reviewed the history of the tax cap since inception with fund balance spreadsheet. She pointed out that the tax cap for the 20-21 school year is 2.14% or \$548,363. She then reviewed the reserves, what reserves were funded from the 18-19 surplus and the current balances of each. Mrs. DeMass also pointed out that we did use both the tax certiorari and the EBLAR reserve in the 19-20 school year.

After some discussion around the budget development process, the committee advised they would like to see three scenarios showing budget implications with the tax cap at 2.14 and two other lower options. Similar to years past, this would show changes to the proposed budget which would include any additions, reductions, use of fund balance and/or reserves. Mrs. DeMass agreed to using this approach and would provide to the committee at the next meeting if it was available.

Mrs. DeMass then reviewed both the key components of the administrative and capital budgets. She advised the group that this information was subject to change as she was still waiting for the final service request from BOCES. She also advised that there could be some changes in these areas after her review of the program budget was complete.

Mrs. DeMass then spoke to the group about the capital reserve proposition that is expected to go to the board for approval on March 24th. She advised that our attorney provided the option to increase our current 2018 capital reserve to a higher amount. She explained that this would still be through voter approval. The committee discussed but advised that the preference would be to create new reserve with a dollar amount of \$2.5 million. The committee advised that this is a reasonable dollar amount and the district could potentially put it on the ballot every other year. They said that it was a consistent approach to managing capital projects on a recurring basis with the hope that it would help taxpayers and the district would be in a better position for both planning and executing on the never ending projects going forward. Mrs. DeMass advised that she would review the dollar amount further and report back at the next ABF meeting.

The next meeting is March 17th at 5:30 – 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Geralyn Huba