

Buena Vista School Board
Buena Vista, Virginia

Budget Public Hearing
Ramsey Center
March 24, 2022
5:00 P M

School Board Members in attendance: Chairman Teresa Ellison, Wayne Flint, Lisa Kerr and John Rice. School Board Members absent - John Roberts, Mac Felts and Roy Mohler. Also in attendance – Tony Francis and Sandra Mohler.

Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Teresa Ellison at 5:00 pm.

Dr. Francis – The draft budget has been posted on the website. Budget was based on the House budget because that was the least favorable. Hoping to have a comprised budget the first week of April. Highlights of the budget are: 1) 5% raise. 2) adjusting teachers' pay scale by putting in pay bands, which was shared at the budget work session. Starting teacher salary would be \$39,000. This puts us closer to the surrounding area, which starting pay is around \$42,000. Puts us in the ballpark. 3) also covers the 4.1% increase in health insurance costs. This will be covered by the division not employees. Revenues - \$9 million will come from the State. Composite index changed, which increases the amount of money the City has to give the schools from 1.5 to 1.8 million. We also increased all of the instructional materials and supplies by 5%. Increase line items for paper, fuel, roofing, plumbing, etc. Total budget is \$12,527,596.49. The Nutrition proposed budget is \$656,247.

Teresa Ellison – Is the General Assembly going to have a special session?

Dr. Francis – Yes, April 4th, the General Assembly has been called back to work on a comprised budget. General Assembly could have a new budget in a week. It would be sent to the Governor for approval or rejection by mid to the end of April. Hopefully we would have the final budget by the end of April.

Teresa Ellison – Our budget needs to be sent to the City by?

Dr. Francis – Once the Board approves the budget tonight, we plan to present our budget to the City on March 28, 2022. Mrs. Mohler and I did meet with the City Manager and the Finance Director and went over our needs. We explained what our budget was composed of.

Teresa Ellison – Do you know when you will have to go to the City Council to explain the budget?

Dr. Francis – Probably the 2nd week of April. I said I would be available to meet with City Council.

Lisa Kerr – On the pay bands and the years of experience. Is that experience from any school?

Dr. Francis – yes, we would count experience from other schools.

Teresa Ellison – Where do most of our teachers fall in the new pay bands?

Dr. Francis – We have a good number in the 25 plus years and we have a good number at the beginning of the pay bands. When the group of 25 plus retire that's when we need to be able to complete. Younger teachers aren't as concerned about benefits as the veteran employees are.

Teresa Ellison – Are supplemental stipends on a pay band?

Dr. Francis – Coaching stipends are based on a pay band.

Lisa Kerr – On page 10 – the custodian line, does that line include all custodians plus Jeremiah?

Dr. Francis – He gets a stipend because he is a teacher. His stipend is included with his CTE line.

Wayne Flint – I assume you have a plan for nutrition, clerical workers?

Dr. Francis - The plan is to look at paraprofessional, administrative staff salaries next year. Try to raise those salaries to be complete. Need to research salaries and get data to see where we are compared to the surrounding area. Under our current system a beginning teacher has to work 13 years to make \$40,000. First year teacher in the surrounding area makes at least \$40,000.

Teresa Ellison – When you present this budget to the City, be sure to make that point. This is an eye opener.

Dr. Francis – I have presented it to Jason Tyree.

Teresa Ellison
Teresa Ellison, Chairman

April 28, 2022
Date

Sandra Mohler
Sandra Mohler, Clerk

April 28, 2022
Date