

Notes for Town meeting- Presentation Given by Board Chair, Tara Sweet--Please excuse any grammar or punctuation, these were just the talking points I had to reference during my presentation.

Slides 1-7 Review

Slide 8- Talk about our kids. Our decreased enrollment.

Our enrollment figures are a fluid number as families are moving in and out of town. I know of a house closing in Fletcher on Thursday that has three little children under the age of 4. So we will be adding children to our projections.

Slide 9- Kept Surplus from FY19 to reduce FY18 deficit instead of allocating 50% to capital improvement fund, which we will be discussed later today. We felt that it was best to keep the increase to FY21 as minimal as possible.

For a 2nd year in a row, our Franklin West Supervisory Union assessment payment % went down another percent. In FY 19 we were paying 8% and this year, we are paying 7% and starting FY21 we will be paying 6 %. This is due to the shifting enrollments across our SU. As population shifts and should we see more students this assessment percentage will mostly likely increase in the coming years. It is hard to predict.

Slide 10-Review

Slide 11-Transportation: As you can see there this was a substantial jump for FY21. In FY20 we knew it was time for the bidding process, so we budgeted a 10% increase, which was industry standard. We sent out 4 bid proposals and one came back in for FY20. It was our current provider that had a 36% increase, which is 26 % more than anticipated. But currently we have incurred all our secondary education expenses for FY20 and it looks like we will be under budget. This will be able to offset this additional expense in FY20. Our current budget projections for FY20 show we will not have a deficit for the year. But this is why it looks like a significant increase for FY21 as the rates came in after the budgeting process and town meeting. The numbers reflected are with the 10% not the true cost for transportation last year (FY20). In addition to the cost of service, Fletcher is now responsible for all diesel fuel costs that was originally part of our contract. Drivers were to go to any gas station in the area to fuel up and we were expected to pay these charges. During collaboration at a FWSU meeting, we were able to broker a deal with Fairfax School District who gets their diesel fuel at a bulk rate. This is a savings over gas station rates. And lastly, our state reimbursement model is designed to look at the last completed year for reimbursement of transportation. So in FY20 they use the actuals from FY19, the state will be reimbursing us for the our allowable expenses using the figures from FY19 in FY20 and not our actual costs. So in the next few years we will be getting the reimbursement increase in our revenue which will help offset in future increases in our transportation spending. But we are a year behind with the reimbursement model the state has. They have to use our last completed school year as the reimbursement for the next year.

Slide 12- Review these categories:

General Ed-between shifting staff and some additional grant funds this brought a slight decrease for FY21.

Comp Ed- We are in need of new reading testing materials. The Fontas and Pinnell are incomplete and are missing assessments that the school has determined are needed for accurate assessment measures. We have funded these through a grant for the last several years, but this grant funding is no longer available to us.

K-12 Special Education: due to cost containments at the FWSU level and our assessment decrease we have a reduction in this budget category this year.

Board of Education- Due to the changing board staff and the legislative happenings we are being proactive to include \$ for board members to get training, so we can be informed and educated so we can make decisions on behalf of the taxpayers of Fletcher.

In addition, our tax anticipation note interest expenses have been increasing and we needed to budget this to reflect the current practice.

SU Office- Due to our decrease in % this went up only slightly, but it would have impacted our budget greatly without this decrease as the SU budget did go up 9.54% due to the 12.9% health care rates. The SU board did keep this budget flat for FY21.

Transportation-already highlighted these changes earlier...the board felt we needed to provide transportation to our students. We will continue this year to get reimbursed from Fairfax for our run to BFA each day. Each year we have to request this funding from the BFA Fairfax School Board, it is not a guarantee but Fairfax did approve to reimburse us for FY21.

Overall our expense budget went up 1.02% but with the FY18 deficit that needs to be repaid it brought our increase for FY21 to 3.6%. Currently, the state is projecting that school budgets will be going up an average of 5.53%. Even with paying back the deficit we are below the state average for percentage increases.

Slide 12- review pie chart

Side 13- Go over the stats listed.

The current estimated state average spending per equalized pupil is \$17,133. Our projected rate is \$17,311 We are barely over the state average ~about \$180 under if we didn't have to repay the deficit from FY18.

Slide 14- review the last 4 years of stats.

Slide 15- This is the page everyone likes to see...what will it cost me. This is projected increase for article 11. These rates do not take into consideration income sensitivity. In addition, we have provided a handout up front here that provides a link to a state education tax implication

chart where you can determine by your income what your estimated tax education increase will be. The Board wishes to thank Christina Degraff-Murphy for sharing this tool on Fletcher Folk this week.

Capital Improvement

The FES school board comes to you today to ask how we can currently fund the needs of our town's largest asset, our school. As you can see, over the next five years we are anticipating at least 500K in improvements that are needed.

Let's go over what these needs are:

ADA Compliance- This is the chair lift in the current % classroom. It is completely non-functional. In order to be proactive, we should get this fixed. Should a student have an injury or a student moves into our town this would have to be replaced immediately. There is no non-stair access to this room or the adjoining special education office.

Fire Alarm Compliance- We are currently in compliance. We are currently grandfathered in under previous standards but these are the best practices for school safety. As soon as any building improvements are made the state may tell us we need to upgrade the system. This upgrade includes smoke detectors in each room and hall, install heat detectors (where locations warrant) and add voice/strobe/horn alarms as required by ADA.

Bathroom Renovations-in order to be proactive, no bathrooms in the school are currently ADA compliant. Again, should we have a student who requires access we would need to immediately do this work.

Tile Replacement-We do not believe the hallway tile has been replaced since the addition in 1988. It is okay for the moment but it is becoming old, harder to clean and will be starting lifting off soon, due to age.

Playground- the board added this a few years ago, while we are in compliance, some staging and equipment are aging and will need to be replaced in the coming years. We have continually pushed this out and it needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

Kitchen Equipment- our best estimate is these appliances: cooler, convection oven and dishwasher are at least 15 years old. The useful life of these appliances is 10 years, we have already pushed them past their usefulness and are continuing to do so projected for replacing in FY24. We suspect the dishwasher is even older and we have been and will continue to make costly repairs to address safety issues for employees and contractors.

Gym Floor: We were able to refinish the gym last year without replacing the wood. We expect another 5 years or so of life left from the floor before it will need to be replaced. We will need to continue to evaluate this over time.

We are asking for 100K to be added to the Capital improvement fund to start funding these projects. We have not had a surplus for the last 4 years to add to our fund and we have used the funds for items that needed repairing. As stated before the balance in the town report was inaccurate expenses from FY19 were not moved from the general fund prior to 6/30/19 which is the balance reflected. Two projects occurred in July and Aug 18 that we had to pay for in FY19, our portion of the security upgrades 18 K (state grant paid the rest), and paving the parking lot at 56K. Our balance is currently 49K. We come to you to ask how you would like us to fund these projects, do you want us to continue asking for lump sums, add a dollar amount to the budget as a line item or increase any surplus we get, currently we can allocate up to 50% to the capital fund but again we have not had any surpluses the last 4 years, can we increase percentage higher? We have brought these to you today to get the conversation started and to hopefully fund a few of these important projects.