

WDMCS School Community Network (SCN) Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2020 – meeting held via Zoom

Next Meeting: January 19, 2021

1. **FYE '20 Review and Financial Projections**– Paul Bobek reviewed the Certified Annual Report (CAR) that was presented to the WDM school board on 12/14/2020. He explained how governmental accounting is different than general accounting. He also discussed the district’s ability to levy taxes and how the different funds can be used for different types of spending.

Capital (facility) funds cannot be used to cover personnel expenses. The district’s General Fund is the fund experiencing financial challenges. WDMCS will assemble a 60+ member Long Range Financial Planning Committee to make recommendations on where to cut \$2.5-3.5m of expenditures from the 2021-22 General Fund budget. These recommendations will be presented to the board in early March with a planned public hearing date of April 12, 2021.

Other financial items of note:

- WDMCS has been using reserves to cover deficit spending for the past few years.
 - Enrollment drives funding and WDMCS enrollment is down this year.
 - Nutrition and Community Education both experienced net losses this past school year, in part due to Covid-19 shutdown during the last quarter of the school year.
 - Employee Health Insurance fund has been declining in recent years. District increased health insurance premiums for employees on 7/1/20 after many years of flat premiums to help address increased costs. Stop Loss reinsurance has been beneficial to the district to protect against high dollar claimants (over \$100,000).
 - District incentivized early retirement and have 65 staff (including 31 certified staff) retiring at the end of this school year. This incentive offer was done to help with employee expenses.
2. **Open Forum with Dr. Remy**– Parents asked about a variety of topics including:
 - School Board approved calendar change to move teacher in-service day from Thursday, March 11 to Tuesday, December 22. Students will not have school on December 22. Changes will be communicated to families soon.

- Junior High virtual learning schedule –parents shared their experiences that the current schedule has a lot of down time for students and may not allow for enough contact time with teachers
 - Snow days moving to distance learning days – Dr. Remy shared that this is an option moving forward and that district will need to be flexible to meet student needs in future years
 - Future online learning opportunities in WDMCS – Discussion whether families would be interested in online learning offerings after the pandemic
 - WDM Community Foundation and parent group funding - Dr. Remy will follow up with foundation to improve communication regarding parent group fund balances and process to access funds
3. **Positive Stories from the School Year** – A parent shared that online student opportunities such as mock trial and debate have been great experiences. Another parent was thankful for the district providing meals to families at no cost this school year.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Emanuel