

TO: The Pittsfield School Board
FROM: Bryan Lane
DATE: 11/17/24
REL 2025-26 Budget Summary and Reductions

The original draft budget that was created by the Administration was \$12,821,473 which was an increase of \$1,874,346 which presented and increase of 17%. The Administration reviewed the budget and made reductions in the amount of \$132,032 with the following:

- Removal of the Technology Assistant
- Reductions in some supply accounts
- Reduction of co-curricular and coaching salaries
- Reduction of a staff person who no longer works in the District (Not a reduction in staffing)
- Reduction in Orton Gillingham expenditures

The Budget that was presented to the Board was \$12,689,441, representing an increase of \$1,742,314, 15.9%.

Things to note:

The PMHS Reading Specialist is note in this budget:

- The Reading Specialist for the middle school is not in the budget and cannot be funded with reduced Title I funds.
- The grant funds that have funded half of the Social Worker's position cannot be guaranteed. 50% of this position will be funded by The Foss Family Foundation. The other half is in the budget.
- Overtime for custodial staff is not budgeted for nor is custodial summer help.
- Math position reduced last year in not included in this budget.
- Foreign Language position reduced last year is not in this budget
- The replacement program for furniture is not included in this budget.

The School Board reviewed the budget and proposed the following possibilities for reductions to the budget:

- Reducing para-educator hours from 7 hours to 6.5 hours with the exception of RBT's and those staff who have been in the District for 10 years. This reduction eliminates the requirement to pay NH Retirement for those staff persons. Staff does not pay for NHRS either and all employees would not take home less money.
- Leasing a van to provide out of District transportation for some students.
- Postponing the tiling project at PES
- Level funding some accounts

After these reductions the proposed budget is \$12,439,135, a reduction from the original budget of \$382,338. This creates an increase of \$1,492,008, representing a percentage increase of 13.63%.

For every \$361,471 the budget increases there is a \$1.00 increase in the tax rate. With an increase of \$1,493,008, this represents a tax impact of \$4.13 per thousand dollars of valuation.

AREAS OF INCREASE

The increase is due to the following:

- \$ 1,037,776 Special Education costs (does not include health insurance increased in SPED).
- \$ 11.6% increase in health Insurance, 7.9% increase in dental insurance. \$189,119
- \$ 34,684 Social Worker at 50%
- \$ 35,194 in electricity, fuel oil, water/sewage
- \$ 23,729 in non-special education transportation
- \$ 20,800 in increased costs for connectivity for data communications
- \$25,358 in Senior Teacher Salary required by the CBA

Total of these areas is \$1,336,660 which represents 90% of the increase to the budget.

DEFAULT BUDGET

The default budget is \$12,544,169 \$105,034 more than the proposed budget.

REVENUE

There will be offsetting revenue that has not been included in past budgets. The DOE has not provided all amounts at this time but we can estimate the following:

- Special Education Aid- \$255,000, this is equal to this year's sum but with more students out-of-district, that number should increase.
- Medicaid- \$55,000, this is equal to this year's sum but we may have higher reimbursements.
- E-rate- \$30,000, this is equal to this year's funding.
- We can anticipate an increase in SWEPT funds of approximately \$27,000.
- Rental income from Head Start- \$13,000

Total additional revenue \$380,000.

The total tax impact of the proposed budget, considering the revenue, will be \$3.07 per thousand dollars of valuations.

The Grant Budget is \$856,954 as listed on the summary page, this includes funding for Food Service. This brings the total operating budget to \$13,296,089.