

ASD Ways and Means
November 8, 2022

Names of Members:

Dwayne Purvis (Chair)	- Present
Jeff Candito	- Present
Greg Fritz	- Present
Mike Akillian	- Remote
Mozammel Husainy	- Present
Steve Frades	- Remote
Rick Barnes	- Present
Kelly Schmidt (Alternate)	- Absent
Marilyn Gibson (Alternate)	- Present
Steve Harris (Alternate)	- Absent

Person(s) appearing before the Committee

Sue Sprinkel (Public) - Present
Amy Hanson (Public) - Present

A brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions

October Minutes are approved with edits.
September Minutes are approved without edits.
August Minutes are approved with edits.

A tour of Amherst Middle School is available for Ways and Means members on 11/29 at 10am with Principal Kristen Gauthier.

Public Comment 1: No one chose to address the committee.

Brief Summary of subcommittee meetings.

Food Services — This area of the budget is profitable. The biggest new item is the request for Uniforms including “no-slip shoes” and coats. The SAU was encouraged to find grant money and equitable aid from both the State and Federal agencies.

Transportation — The W&M reps were impressed by the rigor by the SAU in finding the best option for this area. The fact that there is no increase in fuel costs is attributed to the increase in the bus contract which had a \$100 increase.

Clark Wilkins — This was a budget for “regular education” and included one-off proposals all of which are in line with previous years spending. It was mentioned that it is a challenge to read through a budget that does not include all operations at C-W.

Amherst Middle School — The Ways and Means reps helped identify an error in the Default budget which has been corrected by the SAU. The labor costs of retiring employees was included in the Default whereas it should have been the cost of the new employees. There was a short discussion about the Safety and Security requirements and costs at AMS. There is an increase over the current year’s budget in regards to hiring a full RN (Registered Nurse) and a LNA (Licensed Nurse Assistant).

Invited Public Comment: Amy Hanson addressed the committee on the challenge of including new staff costing in Default.

Curriculum — A brief discussion on the adoption of the new Math Curriculum; some members felt the need and value of new curriculum is not clearly understood. The number of instructional days has decreased from 180 to 170 days over the years.
Invited Public Comment 2: Sue Sprinkel addressed the committee about how the instructional time per day has increased along with the decrease in the number of days to result in a net increase in instructional time which is among the highest in the state.

Technology — The W&M reps discussed how the technology budget is not well defined. There is concern that because the Technology budget is not in the contract, that it is an area that can be lean or cut to make up for cost overruns elsewhere in the budget.

Facilities — The SAU rep gave a fantastic presentation that convinced the W&M reps of the seriousness and accuracy of the facilities budget. There is a request for new chairs by classroom consistent with a multiyear plan to upgrade classroom furniture. There will be no change in the operating cost of Clark-Wilkins regardless of whether a new school is constructed or the current structure is repaired and maintained. This was surprising to many of those in that subcommittee meeting but the operating cost is determined by a fixed cost per square feet regardless of the age of the building according to the SAU.

Special Services — The special student population is in the same ballpark as other districts per the SAU. The metrics for success are not clear to the W&M reps nor is the justification of priorities.

Capital Items / Misc — SAU is the largest cost.

Public Comment 2:

Amy Hanson addressed the committee on the math curriculum. Amy said that the math curriculum will greatly affect scores as part of a multiyear math program. Amy also offered to return to the Ways and Means committee once the salary budget is released to Ways and Means.

Sue Sprinkel offered the Ways and Means members to include the classroom she uses as part of the AMS tour because that classroom has experienced flooding and tile failures.

Next Meeting will be Monday November 14