



Respectful, Responsible, Safe & Prepared

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.
Waupaca High School Community Room and [Live Stream](#)

Welcome and Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson Dale Feldt at 4:59 p.m.

Roll Call:

All members of the Committee were present (Chairperson Dale Feldt, Steve Klismet, and Molly McDonald). Additionally, Board members Betty Manion, Ron Brooks, and Nic Genske were present.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Mark Flaten, Austin Moore, Rob Scherrer, Michael Werbowsky, and Jay Seefeldt.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Molly McDonald and seconded by Steve Klismet to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Review of Board Meeting Norms:

The Board reviewed their collective commitments.

Video Board Presentation:

Director of Co-Curricular Activities and Athletics Rob Scherrer emphasized the importance of branding the District because it helps to build culture, increases team spirit, increases community involvement, etc. His first priority would be to purchase a video board for the WHS gymnasium. The cost of the video board will be fully funded by sponsorships purchased by area businesses, so there would be no cost to the District and it could potentially generate revenue. The video board could be used for many things, including senior spotlights and graduation, and it could potentially increase enrollment by spotlighting new students. In addition, a fully run media classroom which would include learning about marketing would be implemented.

After meeting with several companies, Mr. Scherrer recommended that the District enter into a partnership with Daktronics. He proposed two options for the video board – 7' x 15' at a total cost of \$92,150 or 8' x 15' at a total cost of \$104,250. The video board is virtually indestructible, can be easily maintained, and has a 10 year life expectancy. The sponsorships would be for a period of three years and Mr. Scherrer has talked with several businesses who are interested. He reiterated that he would not purchase the video board until it is 100% funded.

The funds generated would go into the activities account to help pay for larger ticket items requested by teams/activities that may not be in the budget or that they would not normally be able to purchase. The funds could also be used to continue to build the District's brand and maintain/enhance its facilities. Mr. Scherrer's hope is that it will generate enough revenue to eventually eliminate the need for fundraisers.

Mr. Scherrer also shared other ways to brand the District, such as a digital Hall of Fame/Trophy Board which would include a background banner. This would be a virtual trophy case and would showcase athletes, activities, and teams, both past and present. Other possible items included gymnasium door wraps, a wall mural, pillar wraps, and conference/state banners in the gym, and bleacher banners and a wind fence at Comet Field.

A motion was made by Dale Feldt and seconded by Steve Klismet to make a recommendation to the full Board at the next regular Board meeting to allow Director of Co-Curricular Activities and Athletics Rob Scherrer to move forward and secure sponsorships, and then proceed to purchase an 8' x 15' video board for the WHS gymnasium as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Spirit Gas Pump Update:

Mr. Scherrer advised that the District has signed a contract with the Shell gas station to designate certain gas pumps as spirit pumps and they will donate \$.03 per gallon of gas to the District on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Scherrer also provided an update on the car wash and spirit pump partnership program with New Horizons DMJ, d/b/a Pump N' Munch Waupaca (Mobil). He outlined the goals of the car wash program, and advised that a portion of the monthly subscriptions would be donated to the District on a regular basis. They will work with the District in designating which activity the funds will go to each quarter. They are looking at a start date of April 1, 2024.

Regarding the spirit gas pump program, Mr. Scherrer advised that he met with Mr. Docter of the Mobil gas station and he advised that they would rebrand the fuel dispensers at a cost of \$2,500 each to advertise its partnership with the District, and would donate \$.03 per gallon of gas on a quarterly basis (similar to Shell). They are willing to sign a multi-year contract with the District, and are looking at a start date towards the end of the year.

Mr. Scherrer advised that the donated funds will go into the general activities budget, and Mr. Docter emphasized that he wants to get everyone involved regarding the donations, not just athletics. The Committee suggested that perhaps the club/team would be required to submit something in writing to request these funds, similar to requesting a grant or completing a scholarship application.

2024-2025 Budget Update:

Director of Business Services Austin Moore advised that since last December, the District has received updated numbers from the DPI, which have now been solidified. This has resulted in a revenue limit increase adjustment from 1% to 2.7% which, in turn, resulted in an increase of approximately \$633,000. This is based on actual numbers; previously Mr. Hayek did not have the hard numbers so just used conservative estimates. In addition, other inflationary costs were held at 3%, and the increase in salaries and benefits was shifted from

4.5% to 4.1%, based on the CPI which has been locked in for July 1. Therefore, with these updated numbers, the budget deficit has been reduced from \$896,000 to \$323,000. In addition, Mr. Moore set out additional reductions that will be made, along with a planned increase in funding for the EL program, which resulted in a total overall projected shortfall of \$68,402.

Mr. Moore also advised that the State legislature is working on a bill that would shift some of the local tax dollar support for private schools to the State, which would provide the District with additional state aid. This bill has bipartisan support but has yet to be passed.

Mr. Moore cautioned that the only other variable still outstanding which may have an impact on the budget are the health insurance costs, and he will be meeting with M3 later this spring.

Because no other large scale cuts will be necessary, the Administration believes there is no longer a need to establish a stakeholder committee to look at budget reductions, as they can balance the budget through the normal District budgetary process.

Administration also advised that, at this time, staffing will remain status quo; however, they cautioned that enrollment is fluid and it may become necessary to make adjustments and/or shift staff into other positions. In addition, per past practice, when there is a resignation, they review that open position to determine if it is necessary to replace it. Also, the District could use a minimal amount of dollars from the fund balance if it becomes necessary.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Molly McDonald and seconded by Steve Klismet to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.