

**Trenton R-9 Board Of Education Reviews Variety Of Topics**

**News**

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For the upcoming school year, an 11 million dollar budget has been adopted by the Trenton R-9 board of education.



Members also heard a couple requests: one to provide bus transportation for pre-school students; and to consider expanding ala cart menu selections for lunch at the high school. No action was taken on either of the requests last evening.

Addressing the school board was Shona Pollard who described herself as a mother working in Chillicothe with a child planning to attend pre-school but in need of transportation. Because of her work schedule, she explained someone else has to be relied on to take the child to pre-school. Due to the anticipated cost and perceived lack of need, Trenton does not provide a bus for pre-school. Federal funds compensate title one and special education pre-school but none covers transportation. So it would have to be at district expense.

Director of Supportive Services Dennis Gutshall, when asked, said the current bus company provided a quote in March 2011 of approximately 34 thousand dollars per route for pickup and take home. And he figured two routes would be required. A bus would be designated for pre-schoolers so as not to mix them with older pupils. Someone would serve as a monitor riding the bus and each child would have to be confined in a car seat for safety. Kevin Bailey requested time to study the request and determine whether others may be interested.

David Whitaker asked his fellow board members to consider the feasibility of expanding the ala cart menu at T-H-S. It's unknown what charges would be needed if the ala cart were to include things like tenderloins and fries. A concern is that food waste is up due to schools having to meet government guidelines on nutrition. Another complaint is not enough food on the school lunch.

Gutshall said research would determine whether more staff is needed to prepare additional food options for high school students to purchase. Whitaker said he'd like to see the school break-even with any additional options from a proposed broader menu.

The R-9 budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1st shows cexpenses surpassing revenue by 169 thousand dollars. That's just one and a half percent off from being balanced for the year. Figures provided show revenue of 11 million, two thousand dollars with expenditures of 11 million, 171 thousand dollars. The budget, by its very nature, is subject to revisions. Adjustments could come this fall regarding Title and special education funds as well as teachers earning graduate hours.

The budget projection is based on Trenton receiving state funding of 92 percent of what it should be

getting. It's been several years since the foundation formula was âfully-funded.â Health insurance premiums stay the same but the Affordable Care Act requires fees and taxes amounting to about 92 dollars per employee that's assessed for the R-9 school districts' plan. Superintendent Becky Albrecht noted federal sequestration cuts will likely reduce Title one funds for pre-school by five percent.

The R-9 board approved 11 requests from staff seeking grants from the G-E-C Community Foundation. Amounts range from 500 to 12-hundred dollars with no matching funds required.

Fifteen (15) used computers were declared surplus property and will be offered for sale to the highest bidders. One bid per computer. The desk-top computers were described as five years old.

Kris Ockenfels reported a 30 meg fiber optic connection for the high school should be ready after July 1st. Then other locations will be pursued for the network. Ockenfels also presented the athletic and activities report involving high school and middle school students and coaches.

Dennis Gutshall detailed a variety of summer projects in each building. Of special note is painting the high school gym; dirt work and gravel for the lot of the bus barn location; and progress made on upgrading Griffin ball field. He said the booster club donated funds for the shot put area.

E'lisa Gass reported 200 students for summer school with 14 more taking driver's education.

A special board meeting is June 27th to close out the fiscal year for Trenton R-9.