Preliminary Budget

Fiscal Year 2022

Colonial
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Preliminary Budget

- Represents the financial plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

- Final budget will be presented after certification of the unit count. This year's budget assumes that we will be funded at the 98% estimated unit count number, which is a decrease in enrollment from last year.

- Reviewed by the CFOC on August 3rd.

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State Revenues

- State discretionary revenue is showing a slight increase due to a higher than expected increase in the allocation of Ed sustainment funds from last year. This was likely due to the fact that Colonial's enrollment for last year decreased less than other districts statewide so we retained a larger share.
- The Opportunity funds are increasing as part of a three year phase-in due to the funding lawsuit settlement. The Student Success Block Grant now only contains K-4 Reading funds and due to changes in eligibility, Colonial's allocation is lower. K-3 special education funds are not part of the block grant any longer.
- The Transportation formula contains enhancements estimated to increase revenue and Other state revenue reflects a residency grant that Colonial was awarded for FY 22 as well as a placeholder amount for other grants.
- Overall, State revenue has increased 4.2% from last year.

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Local Revenues

- Local discretionary revenue is decreasing slightly due to lower projection for interest earnings and indirect cost billing. This is despite a slight increase in operating tax receipts from a slight increase in our tax base.

- Restricted local revenue is increasing slightly due to an expected rebound to cafeteria receipts and increased match tax receipts.

- Choice and charter billing are estimated to be largely the same but it is expected that we will see an increase in funds put into reserve.

- Total Local revenue is down by 1.1%.

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Federal Revenues and Summary

- Federal revenues are down by 2.2% across most of the entitlement grants. The increase in other Federal revenue is the 21st Century grant.

- CARES funding was spent down in FY 21 and ESSER funds for pandemic relief are shown in a separate section of the budget to prevent large swings in the overall district budget.

- Total revenue is up by 2% over FY 21 but most increases are in restricted funding lines. Ongoing discretionary resources continue to be stagnant.

Expenditures

- To continue a caution approach to FY 22 given the possibility of lower enrollment and units, most budgets have been set at 95% of FY 21 amounts.

- Restricted budgets were adjusted based on expected revenues and cut if possible with the exception of technology, which is anticipated to continue to have higher demands as things settle out from the pandemic.

- New budget lines have been established for the virtual programs at Wilmington Manor, which will cover grades 1-8 and William Penn.

- Budgets at the Superintendent level have been collapsed for administrative ease.

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Expenditures continued

- Tuition budget lines have been streamlined as well. This is not intended to be a cut in resources but collapsing into fewer ‘buckets’ to give principals more flexibility in meeting the needs of students across special programs.

- Payroll budgets in tuition have also been collapsed to allow for more efficient processing and administrative tracking.

- Immersion has been split into separate allocations for Chinese and Spanish to ease tracking of these funds.

- Overall expenditures are increasing by 1.2% mainly due to increased Opportunity funds and expected growth in salary expenses.

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Other Items

- An overview of the expected property tax receipts is also provided.
- Details on federal funds received for Pandemic relief are included in this budget. ESSER II details are included; plans for ESSER III funds are still being finalized and will be submitted to DOE later this month.
- One-time enhancements were also received for IDEA 611 and 619. Additional details will be provided on these funds at a future board meeting.

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Summary

- This budget reflects a still changing landscape. State funds have not declined and federal resources have been made available to allow us to meet the challenges of the pandemic, but the enrollment picture for this school year is uncertain and a fiscal cliff is now looming when the relief funds expire.

- Thoughtfully planning to utilize our one-time funds to maximize student supports and outcomes while minimizing out year costs will be essential to preventing program cuts in FY 24 when the federal funds expire.

Questions?