

MA (Cont. from 1)

number of mills (41) assessed by the school district. District mills include a statutorily required 23 mills plus the mills needed to

fund the shared \$4 million 1999 mill levy override (MLO) and pay for voter-approved district bonds. Additional money comes from the specific ownership tax on new cars and on annual auto registra-

tion. This totals about 30% of per pupil revenue.

- Additional funding comes from federal grants from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, Title 2 and 4 funds; instructional fees set by MA; and donations received. Federal revenue is about 4-5% of the overall income.

Brocklehurst then explained that MA uses fund accounting, which includes a General Fund, a Preschool Fund, the MA Building Corporation (MABC) Fund, the MA Foundation Fund (MAF) and the Activities Fund. The Preschool Fund tracks preschool tuition, salary, and benefits. The MABC and MAF Funds take in money from the General Fund and cover bond principal and interest payments for the west and east campuses, respectively. The Activities Fund tracks fees paid by parents and costs for sports and field trips.

Brocklehurst then explained the financial statements he prepares and provides for the board along with key financial metrics he tracks to monitor and measure identified goals. He also reviewed the budget process, which included a preliminary budget in April based on estimates of PPR, pupil

counts, and expected cuts due to COVID-19. He also previewed the proposed amended budget using the updated PPR from the state and actual enrollment counts from October as well as detailing use of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, Economic Security Act (CARES) funds for each campus. He reviewed the expenses, explained suggested reductions, and projected a significant increase in the use of reserve funds.

Board President Melanie Strop commended Brocklehurst for cutting spending and said MA didn't have a spending issue but rather had an income issue. She asked if there was any way to increase the schools' PPR by working with the state. Brocklehurst said that the state share would be hard to change because they had already done a good job protecting the K-12 budget at the expense of other areas of the state budget. He said that districts' PPR varies based on various factors, but the big difference is in the local MLO. It would, he said, be easier to champion a mill levy increase and get the word out to the community about the request.

Budget amended to increase reserve use

At the regular meeting, the board reviewed the amended budget and asked

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