

*Oneonta City School District  
Finance/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2023*

The meeting began at 3:33pm.

Members Present: Lisa Weeks, Business Manager; Shawn Beckerink, Board of Education; Tom Brindley, Superintendent; Sue Kurkowski, Board of Education; Coleen Moore, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Members Absent: Amy Burnsworth, Board of Education

**Internal Controls/Risk Assessment Audit**-Audit is underway. Gloria Gibbon from Cwynar, Farrow and Locke has been interviewing administrators, business office personnel and others who may handle cash. The board can expect to be contacted to be interviewed in order to update our internal controls and risk assessment. This is required and will be an update of our prior audit.

**Single Audit of Federal Funds**-This audit is nearing completion and will be submitted by our Financial Auditors, Raymond Preusser, LLC to The Federal Clearinghouse in the very near future. It is delayed a little this year due to the stimulus fund auditing requirements.

**Targeted Monitoring of Stimulus Funds**-We continue to provide very detailed information to NYSED regarding the expenditures of the stimulus funds. We discussed the preliminary survey in which the district solicited stakeholder input regarding how the funds should be utilized. The district will use these survey results to satisfy the expenditures for the Foundation Aid increase as the criteria for utilization of funds is the same. The district responded by providing the services and teaching supports recommended in the survey results.

**Electric Bus Follow Up**- The committee recommended in previous meetings moving forward with pursuing an available grant opportunity to offset the cost of the mandated electric bus fleet replacement. To be eligible for the grant, the district must have a non-electric bus model prior to 2009 that can be destroyed for each electric bus purchased. Matthews Buses, our current supplier, has located these buses on our behalf. We will need to sign an agreement to purchase these buses. Since they will never be used for student transport and have only been purchased to destroy and satisfy grant requirements, they do not need to be voted on as a separate proposition by the voters. If the electric bus proposition isn't approved by the voters, Matthews will sell the buses to another customer for the same amount as the district has paid. This amount of \$7,300 will be included in the 2023-24 budget. The Vehicle Purchaser Participation Agreement to purchase the scrap buses will be submitted for approval on the next Financial Memorandum.

**2023-2034 Budget Status**-The budget development is complete for the most part. The district has learned that as a result of being made whole on our Foundation Aid, the increase must be spent a specific way. The funds must be spent in the same way that the stimulus funds are spent. Therefore, the district is recommending that the positions that we have included in the stimulus funding, that were included in the sustainability plan, be shifted to the 2023-24 budget plan. These positions include:

- Curriculum Coordinator
- (3) AIS Teachers, Social Worker, Psychologist. This will free up funds for some ‘one time’ expenditures.

Also included in the 2023-24 Budget Plan are:

- (2) additional security guards
- Vice Principal (MS)
- Full Time Tutor
- Athletics-Girls Wrestling, Uniform Replacement & HUDL Software

The Plan does not include:

- Current Additional Elementary Section which is a “one year” funded position in the Stimulus Funds.”
- Replacement of (4) LTA’s retiring

Our favorable benefit rating (health) has helped the district to absorb the addition costs to cover the current student needs.

To continue this trend, the district will get the Wellness Committee involved to educate employees regarding preventative measure services available to them.

We have discussed the revenue side of the budget. The tax cap is higher due to the falling off of a very large PILOT. This assessment will be included in the valuation of the district, which will have the effect of lowering the taxes due to a higher valuation to spread the burden across. This results in a higher tax cap.

We previously discussed the Foundation Aid increase.

It is recommended that we add a public informational meeting to review the budget plan on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the High School Cafeteria.

Our meeting ended at 4:15pm.

Next meeting: March 29, 2023; 6:00pm

Location: High School Cafeteria, East Street

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa J. Weeks*

Business Manager-