

From: Justin Partee justin_partee@warroad.k12.mn.us
Subject: Re: questions
Date: July 10, 2013 at 9:04 AM
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. The decision of the board was to combine the Facility and Transportation Manager positions while letting the office staff take on the paperwork part of both jobs. This eliminated the two positions and created the new one. No names were used in this decision, it was strictly about getting our district budget back in the black. We did not discuss any rumors from staff or citizens when we went through this process. No work history was involved. It was just about the dollar figures. We are currently projected to overspend by \$175K at the end of June 2014. We just finished the 2012-2013 year and overspent by \$300K. With the cuts that were made through 2013, we got the number for next year down to \$175K, but we have to do more to get to \$0. The unfortunate thing about all of this is we have to create a better way to manage our dollars. It's financially irresponsible for the board and administration to keep going on and spending money like the federal government. The biggest difference is that we do not have the luxury to print more money. We have to work with what the state gives us, and in my opinion that is not enough for our needs. That is where we have to have the public's help in looking at options for more funding through passing a referendum and encouraging our elected officials to promote change. It's just not fair to our students or the future of our community. I want you to know that this was a very difficult decision, but the board felt that it was one that had to be made during these very difficult times.

There was no end date decided on for the transition as we would like a training period for whoever is hired for the newly created position. The tentative date that was set for a new start date for the candidate was set for August 19. [REDACTED]

Comparing Warroad to Baudette is not completely fair they are 1/2 the size in student population as we are. With that, they are awarded the small school compensation because they are under the 1000 student mark (Baudette is roughly 500 total students) and we in Warroad miss the cut by a few students (1009 total students last year in Warroad). This is a gray area in school finance and it really creates a short coming of money for our district. As for the salary amounts, that was passed by the previous board before the end of their term. It is now starting it's 2nd of 3 total years of the contract. I'm not going to disagree with you that the amounts are inflated beyond what they might should be.

As for the kitchen, nothing is currently being done to change the structure that is in place. For the custodian team, they will report to the person that is hired in this newly created position. In the dollar figures, the savings is in the elimination of two positions and hiring for only one. The total savings for this decision is roughly \$75K when salary and benefits are included. With the hiring of the other principal, that was basically a wash from our previous principal salary. As for having two principals, we felt this was for the best interest of our students. Hence, the reason to re-hire for the position.

Being on the board is not an easy task and in most cases the decisions that are being made will not be popular, especially with the shape our budget and spending habits that are established. Making cuts is something that none of us want to do. It is something that is very difficult. At the end of the day, we have to get back to our budget and be more responsible in our spending. As time goes on, if enrollment increases, we have a few items pass with the voters and more money is coming in, there is always the chance that we can bring positions back as the need arises. We have to try unconventional methods to get to where we need to be.

Again, thank you for the email and concern. I wish we had more citizens that took an active role in their school and voiced their opinion. That is what makes public school so special. We all get to be a part of it. Also, thank you for your regular attendance to our meetings. If I can be of any assistance to you, please let me know.

Thanks.
Justin

On Wed, Jul 10, 2013 at 12:17 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Justin,

I was at another meeting on Monday. I heard that the school board voted to cancel Mr. Hasbargen's position as head of the custodial department. Have you thought this through?

[REDACTED]

By the way, how does this save money? Will you be increasing the pay of the other 2 that will head up the 2 custodial services? Are you ready to pay any unemployment to other personnel that you got rid of? That comes from the school district, too. The changes of mind of the board from 1 principal and now back to 2 again cost money. If we are under one school, and you don't think we need a maintenance dept. head, then why do we need 2 principals? Will the 2 kitchens not have a head person, but have 2 separate heads? [REDACTED]

By the way, we pay our administration personnel more than Baudette. Our school administration always looks to Roseau but not Baudette in salary issues so it makes them look under paid. (Just a note, our superintendant got a huge amount more than Jule ever got as sheriff and he was on duty and call 24/7 year around. In fact, all the administration is getting more than he ever got. Pretty sad!)

I still have a question about the tightness of our preschool classes.

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

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Thank You
Justin M. Partee



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