BOARD HEARS PRESENTATION ON 2021-22 BUDGET

Executive Director of Finance Ty Bergstrom presented the draft 2021-22 budget for the District. It must be adopted by Aug. 31. Bergstrom told the Board that the District’s financial condition will continue to be affected by the pandemic for the next two to three years.

- Enrollment vs staffing: The district is overstaffed. K-3 class size which OSPI funds based on a range of 17-25. MISD’s pre-pandemic class size was 16.33 and pandemic class size of 14.31. We do not receive additional funding for staffing ratios less than 17.
- Reductions in force: we made efforts to right size staffing to enrollment, but needed to pull staff back for limited positions to address learning recovery needs and interventions.
- Extensive health and safety costs driven by the pandemic response.
- Continued transportation needs that were only partially funded by stabilization.
- Since McCleary, levy collections are smaller, but have been offset by the rapid increase in staffing costs. This means less flexibility than before.
- Enrollment is currently at projection system wide, but has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels.
- Specialized needs and services: extensive needs in specialized intervention services and continued barrage of public record requests.
- Inflationary costs include higher staffing costs and higher costs for goods and services.
- New State legislative mandates: lead water testing, double assessments and required professional development, new compliance and audit requirements
- Continued costs for safety and risk management in light of continued risks posed by variant infections.

The Board will hold a public hearing on the budget at its Aug. 26 meeting at 5 p.m. in the IMS library and on Zoom.

UPDATE ON SUPERINTENDENT SUCCESSION PLANNING

Superintendent Donna Colosky will be retiring July 31, 2022, and the Board is beginning discussion about the process to select her successor. They reviewed the previous search that resulted in Supt. Colosky’s hiring and agreed to begin holding special meetings to discuss a potential search and how to involve the community in the process.