

2013-14 school budget projects \$150,000 deficit

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Authorizing the use of \$150,000 from the General Fund beginning fund balance, the Holyoke School District Re-1J Board of Education finalized its budget for the 2013-14 year.

The school board approved the June budget at its June 18 meeting, following a budget hearing which had no public comment. Estimated beginning fund balance on July 1 is \$1.5 million.

There was a minor increase in funding from the state, but the district still has a negative factor of over \$700,000.

The following appropriations for the adopted budget were approved for 2013-14:

General Fund \$5,777,792

Bond Redemption 573,844

Construction 746,758

Food Service 238,000

Trust and Agency 373,506

Activity 332,026

Total Approp. \$8,041,926

Summer construction projects updated

Superintendent Bret Miles updated the board on summer construction projects at last week's meeting.

Capital projects include three concrete projects with firm bids, ready to be scheduled; carpet in elementary computer lab and library, scheduled in June; and automatic door openers for three handicapped entrances, ready to order equipment.

In his technology project report, Miles said office computers, Promethean boards and laptops will be ordered July 1, and Infinite Campus will be rolled over with routine cleanout maintenance to be performed on all machines.

On the new track grant, Miles said the survey is complete, rough grade is being scheduled, sprinklers are being moved, and they're expecting concrete this week. Light poles have been ordered, measurements for wire are complete, and relocation of the city power line is being looked at.

Phase 2 construction projects are under way this summer. Miles said dual light switches are half complete at the elementary school and prices are being sought for the JR/SR High; an air conditioner for the server room has been ordered, and is expected to be installed by Sullivan's Appliance this week; and science lab upgrades have started—sinks are almost ready, gas valves are ordered, and electricity is complete.

Elementary classroom doors are ordered, and some exterior doors are being priced. Keyless entry with alert security at the elementary has been ordered. Parts are here, and they're working with the gas company for hookup for the snowmelt at the old gym.

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Fixtures have been identified and are being priced for restroom upgrades, metal siding on gables has not begun, elementary sprinkler system has not begun, controls system upgrade is in, and prices are being sought for adding old gym interior doors.

Routine summer maintenance projects include painting identified rooms, regular carpet shampooing and general overhaul of classrooms, as well as mowing and trimming.

Other business

In other business at the June 18 meeting, the Re-1J board:

—hired Carly Daniel, Tarah Kasdorf, Allie Billings, Kari Sandquist and Crystal Rigel as teachers for the 2013 elementary summer school program.

—approved first reading of policies on security/access to buildings, staff key control system; alcohol and drug-free workplace; staff use of facilities; and home schooling.

—gave final approval on second reading of the grading scale policy.

—held a 30-minute executive session prior to the meeting with Miles and legal counsel Mike Schreiner to obtain advice on specific legal questions.

—noted there will be a board retreat Tuesday, July 2, but no regular meeting. The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, July 16 at 8 p.m.

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