



## ROSELLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

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Dr. Mary Henderson, Superintendent

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To: Dr. Mary Henderson, Superintendent  
Board of Education

From: Dr. Gregory Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations/CSBO

Re: Monthly Business Report

Date: October 19, 2021

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The month ending September 30th shows the district at its high point for fund balances for the fiscal year. Revenue is a positive story on all fronts, with local, state, and federal sources performing well. Of importance, the district appears to be on track--based on historical trends--to exceed its targets for local property tax receipts by as much as half a percentage point. This source of revenue was budgeted somewhat conservatively as there were still some unknowns as to how the pandemic would affect taxpayers at the local level. To see our largest source of revenue coming in better than anticipated is always great news.

On the expenditures side, historical trends provided by the Forecast 5 analytics show areas of concern, particularly related to purchased services and supplies. This is supported by the supplemental excel file as well. Some of this is due to the fact that many of these expenditures are front-loaded in the school year. But there is still data that is suggesting we need to be cautious with spending in these areas so as not to overblow our budget, even with the possibility of the district benefiting from higher levels of revenue than what was anticipated when the budget was drafted. The administration will default to a strategy of monitoring spending so that "need to have" purchases are prioritized over those that are "nice to have."

In updating the Board of Education on topics unrelated to the treasurer's report, I would like to explain why Dr. Henderson and I have decided not to bring forward a recommendation to the board related to the solar project this month as we have talked about doing. In the summer months, when the administration was doing the homework necessary to bring forth such a recommendation, we took the conscious step to slow down a little bit and fully assess the health of the roofs of SHS and RMS before putting thousands of pounds of steel and other materials on top of them. We have no significant concerns about the health of the roofs due to our understanding of a restoration project that was completed in 2018 that was designed to provide better water resistance, drainage, and protection from the elements, in addition to securing warranties on sections of the roofs that would last between 15 and 20 years.

In working with Performance Services (the company with whom we are currently planning the solar project), Tremco (the company who provided the warranties on the 2018 roof work), and our architect at Wold, we determined that the best course of action would be to devise a plan that would make the roofs more resistant to the weight and the potential maintenance needs of the solar arrays while extending our roof warranties so that there was alignment between them and the expected life of the solar arrays. The goal was to gain the assurance that our roofs can handle the solar project and to do

*The vision of Roselle District 12 is to prepare students to ethically engage in our global society.*

our best to ensure that the District would not have to invest heavily in either the roofs or the solar piece for at least 20 years.

The additional estimate for this work came back at \$570,000. This is not an amount that Dr. Henderson and I were anticipating we would have to tack onto our \$1.3 million solar project when we were discussing investing a little bit of money in our roofs. Therefore, we are taking a pause to better assess our options. One option would be to go ahead with the solar installation with the roofs in their current state and bring in Tremco as a partner in the work so that they may be consulting on panel installation, weight, roof penetrations, flashing designs in order to protect the existing warranties against any work that could potentially void them. This would cost significantly less, yes, but no additional work would be done to augment the integrity of the roofs. A second option would be to invest fully in the roofs today, making the conscious decision that it would be better to spend the money now on the roofs rather than later. This would provide the peace of mind that the roofs and the solar project can be off the plate of the Board of Education and administration for decades, but it does impact future capital projects as more debt would need to be issued at this time. A third option, of course, would be to do absolutely nothing.

The administration will continue to work with our partners to devise the best course of action for the District. We will add this to the agenda of the November 11th meeting of the Finance Committee in order to gauge their reactions to our proposed next steps before presenting to the full Board of Education at the regular November meeting.