

Proposal for Shorewood School District Community-Based Financial Workgroup:

Rationale: Like other districts in Wisconsin and across the US, we can expect challenges to funding our school district as a result of a number of factors, including an anticipated drop in state aid beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, based on an enrollment drop in the 2020-2021 school year and other financial impacts stemming from the covid-19 pandemic.

Based on these challenges and others unique to our district, the Shorewood Board of Education is establishing an ad hoc committee of interested members of the public who have an interest and expertise in finance, management and long-range planning to serve as part of an ad-hoc advisory workgroup to our board.

Purpose:

The purpose of the committee is to expedite the work of the School Board and to advance reasoned recommendations to it. Only the School Board meeting in a legally constituted session can formally act and decide upon committee recommendations.

The committee will support board oversight of the district's financial oversight and monitoring (OE-5) and its decision-making by :

- Drafting a summary set of recommendations to the board. The recommendations report should be at least annual and be delivered in February of each calendar year.
- Reviewing state budget proposals, estimates and reports and considering implications for our district.
- Recommending how best to allocate limited resources and set our tax levy in a way that reflects our community's priorities and values.
- Exploring and recommending ways the board could advocate for state and federal funding.
- Suggesting creative ways to partner with minority-owned, environmentally conscious, and cost effective vendors
- Helping us build effective budget communications for the public.

Limitations:

- This workgroup reports and makes recommendations directly to the board, not the superintendent or other administrators.
- Workgroup members do not have special authority to ask for time and resources from the Superintendent, Business Manager or Staff.
- Workgroup members do not have special access to financial records - no more and no less than any member of the public.
- Recommendations to the board should be adopted by consensus of the workgroup members. Those recommendations are valued and appreciated, but are not binding.
- The workgroup does not take on or supersede any of the statutory responsibilities of the board.

Membership:

Any interested member of the public who is interested in the role and can accept the purpose and limitations listed above can apply to serve on the workgroup. Membership will be capped at five voting members. Voting members will be selected by consent of the school board, and those selected members will be asked to consistently attend meetings for at least one year. Employees of the district are not eligible to be part of the workgroup but are welcome to attend meetings along with any members of the public.

Meeting administration:

- Monthly public recorded meetings
- Chaired by a school board member appointed by the Board President who shall set an agenda for each meeting. Each meeting will include opportunities for public comment and open discussion.
- Meeting minutes that include summaries of discussion along with attendees' names will be posted on our district website.

Limit to time frame

The board will vote at least annually to reauthorize or sunset the workgroup, and may deem its work complete at any time by a majority vote.