



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

memo

To: The Board of Education and Dr. Patrick Broncato, Superintendent
From: Curt Saindon, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO
Date: July 18, 2025
Subject: Recommendation to Approve the FY2025-2026 Tentative Budget

Attached you will find ISBE Form 50-36, Tentative Annual School District Budget Form, for FY 2025-2026. I would very much like to thank Fil Mastandrea, Sue Baker and our entire Business Office team for their hard work in ensuring that this tentative budget reflects the most up to date information available regarding projected revenues and expenses for the school district this fiscal year, as well as any proposed/projected loans and/or transfers. Fil, Sue, Jen, Sharon and Michelle have worked tirelessly with other district office and building level staff to develop accurate expense projections based on our current anticipated staffing pattern and benefit renewals, classroom needs, and projected operating requirements, and they have also been diligent in trying to discern and develop reliable revenue forecasts given the ever changing nature and scope of school funding, especially at the Federal level.

Overall, this budget is a refined version of the previous budget summaries provided in May and June, with adjustments for anticipated, finalized salaries and benefits, purchased services, materials and supplies, equipment, transportation expenses, food service expenses, and other expenses related to our operating plan for the 2025-2026 school year. We are currently budgeting for thirteen additional class size reduction teachers, based on Board policy, past practice and estimated student enrollment, and paid for with local funds. In total, these positions account for about \$975K in total expenses. We also have updated several State and Federal revenue figures and hope to have finalized information by the end of August. There are still a few State and Federal grants and programs to be finalized, and we expect flat funding at best and decreased funding at worst in most cases. Our initial, conservative projections remain in place for other grants as we await official confirmation of final funding levels. Additionally, this budget includes \$200K in contingencies for various operating funds. Finally, the tentative budget also includes just over \$1M in interest transfers and \$300K in fund balance transfers to the Education Fund (as that is the fund most in need) to help cover a projected deficit. In the past we transferred such funds to Capital Projects, but that Fund does not need these additional revenues this year, but the Education Fund does...so we are directing those funds accordingly.



memo

As will be mentioned in the related FY2024-2025 Fund Balance Analysis and Review being presented in August, we finished last year in slightly better shape than predicted, thereby increasing our overall reserves while completing additional capital improvement projects. In part this was due to additional early tax receipts received in June as compared to last year, as well as the timing of paying for this summer's capital projects. This led to about \$2.6M in additional reserves at year end compared to last year. We are in the process of completing about \$7.5M in projects this summer and planning for another \$1M in projects next summer. Based on this tentative budget, we are projecting an overall decrease in operating reserves of about \$736K for 2025-2026, but that includes \$200K of contingencies and \$1.725M of capital projects, so factoring out those two items, the overall budget is slightly positive, with an estimated overall adjusted surplus in all funds of just over \$89K. With both revenue and expenditure updates being received continually throughout the summer, we hope to submit a finalized budget in September that is responsible, reflective, and hopefully balanced, after taking out the contingency reserve allocations and expected capital projects spending mentioned above.

I'd be happy to discuss this proposed, tentative budget in more detail and answer any questions you might have. With your approval of this tentative budget we will publish the notice of public budget hearing in a local newspaper, post it on our website, make it available for public inspection in the Business Office, and begin preparing the final budget for the budget hearing and final presentation to the Board, for your review and approval on September 22nd. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you.

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board approve the attached Tentative FY 2025-26 Budget, as presented on ISBE Form 50-36, and direct the Business Office to post said tentative budget on the school district website, put it on display in the Business Office, and make it available for public inspection going forward. Additionally, that the Board agree to hold a Public Hearing on said budget at least 30 days after such approval and posting of a notice (scheduled for September 22, 2025, at 7:45PM in the DAC Board Room), and after giving full consideration of any comments made at the public hearing, to approve the final budget as presented at a future Board Meeting by the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year, as required by law (also scheduled for September 22nd after the Public Hearing has been held). Finally, that the Board direct the Business Office to publish in a local newspaper of general circulation a Notice of Public Hearing on the Budget, to inform the public of their opportunity to review this tentative budget during normal business hours and address the Board on this proposed budget at the public hearing, prior to its final adoption and filing, as required by law.