

# **ROSELLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 12**

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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:	November 16, 2021

There is much to report from the business office at the regular November meeting of the Board of Education. I have divided this memo into four sections through which I will give brief highlights of tonight's various presentations. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have at any time regarding any of these matters.

#### FY 21 Audit

Mr. Andy Mace from Wipfli, LLP will present his findings from the firm's audit of the district's FY 2021 books. The district closed the year with a healthy surplus, and the issues presented to the Board of Education in last year's management letter have been addressed. The administration is very appreciative of the quality work and expertise provided by Mr. Mace and his team. The Board of Education should know it continues to be receiving excellent service from Wipfli.

## November Treasurer's Report

Looking closely at revenues and expenditures as of the month ending October 31st will show some bright spots, as well as some areas that require closer attention. The district has received 99.2% of its budgeted property taxes with two smaller receipts expected in November and December. State reimbursements for special education and transportation also appear to be coming in better than expected. The one area that continues to disappoint is investment revenue, but that is such a small part of the FY 2022 budget that it is not going to have a significant impact on the bigger picture. The district just needs to hope that investment revenue rebounds in future fiscal years.

On the expenditure side, purchased services and supplies are an area of focus in the Educational and Operations & Maintenance funds. The spending of dollars out of these accounts should not be linear across the fiscal year, so the administration will endeavor to rein in some costs to compensate for some unanticipated expenses (e.g., a much higher than usual amount of HVAC repair bills). Once the audit process is fully complete and the adjusting journal entries are done, the administration and the Board will have the most complete picture into the district's current alignment with the FY 2021 budget.

## Solar Project

The administration will present a new vision for the long-discussed solar project with help from Mr. Steve Kowalski from Performance Services. As the Board of Education is aware, the previous scope of

the project turned out to be untenable because of the nature of some of the buildings' roof surfaces. It was determined that the areas of the roof with gravel surfaces would be poor locations for panels as the gravel embedded in the membrane presented a great risk for punctures due to the weight of the solar arrays and the amount of walking that would need to be done on top of them for installation. The project has been scaled back with a plan to place panels on only certain portions of both roofs. These portions of the roofs have a smooth membrane that are currently under the longest warranties that the district has on various roof sections. With a project cost estimated to be \$999,045, this project will theoretically pay for itself in approximately 20 years from ComEd rebates, renewable energy credits, and reduced energy costs. The district has also been approved for a \$50,000 state grant for this project, which represents 5% of the total costs. Over the expected life of these panels, the total savings to the district are conservatively estimated to be \$500,000.

#### 2021 Levy

The administration is recommending that the Board of Education approve the tentative levy for 2021 that totals \$10,265,311. The amount was calculated using CPI from December of 2020 of 1.4% and approximately \$527,000 of new construction in the district. The Board of Education will approve the final levy at the December 21st meeting and it will be submitted to the DuPage County Clerk's office the following day in order to meet the December 28th deadline. Local property taxes are by far the most important funding source the district has and, therefore, great care and thought was put into the calculation of this levy. Because of PTELL, the district is limited in how much it can increase the levy over the prior year's extension. In order to make sure the district captures every dollar available to it, the levy is slightly ballooned in order to account for any possible errors in estimates from the township assessor's office. As long as the percent of change is under 5%, the Board of Education does not need to hold a Truth in Taxation hearing. This is why the percent of change of this year's levy over last year's extension is 4.96%.