

School Site Council

Oct 27, 2021

Missing Rebecca S.

Budget:

\$41,000 in general fund, down to \$21000. \$6000 to go in for books, culturally relevant, high interest books. \$1500 at beginning of the year. To order class sets going forward. Specifically young adult readers with parent participation from completed (language, content, etc). Book fair generated over \$6000 in sales. We get a percentage back in scholastic bucks (probably about \$1000).

Supplies: projects throughout the year, paper, etc. Issue with toner for copiers. We have plenty of paper, so working on the balance of printing vs using chromebooks. We still need to print IEPs, progress reports, and report cards. Would like to see digital report cards/progress reports-which would mean a new student information system program. There's a lot of issues with programs we use and x2 communicating. Any advocacy about updating that system would be helpful. Infinite campus and powerschool are good options, parent friendly. District wide consistency is also important, so there not going to a ton of different programs for different kids.

Technology: \$7900, ST Math is \$3500 (lifetime amount). May be getting a credit back. Schoology is \$5200 for licenses -- will use the remaining funds for that. Replace all the smartboards with the clear touches. May consider buying a few on our own.

PD: We have more money than we started with.

Contracted Services - don't pay for any Acera PD, UDL is covered. \$7500 was set aside for culturally proficient training. No plan for election day PD regarding equity practices. If no plan set, will start our own plan in January. If we do that, we will transfer money to general fund or technology (for clear touch boards).

Choral: Mr. J buys new music/things for music class

Student activities: over \$20,000

Substitute: Still an issue have only had up to two subs on a single day. We've had people who have to call out due to COVID issues because of child care, appointments, etc. Crossing guard was supposed to start Oct 25, still has not started. Lowell Police told her that she cannot start until she is trained. Idea to increase the sub pool - increase pay, school committee approved. We need to advertise, recruit and inform people that only a HS diploma is necessary. Lobbied for in district child care programs that are subsidized (an employee benefit).

Shifting content literacy to dance- Jessica Diviso spent a week here touring classrooms, meeting with teachers to bring us to a true arts magnet school. Tasked with building a multi-year plan to make it an actual Arts Magnet School - a performing and fine arts school. Part of this is restructuring LHS to career pathways. This would better help students prepare for their post

education/hands on/real word preparation. Classroom that will work for the dance program - needs mirrors and ballet bars, have portable ballet bars that they aren't using at LHS. Cost is going to be limited, but it needs to have a strong floor. The room should be on a basement level to prevent the noise. We need to dig up the current floor and put a better floor in, which may not happen year one. Parents will need to be aware that this is the plan to participate in dance (all forms of dance, including ballet).

Long term plan- eventually do we expand into another building? Could we potentially end up expanding and becoming a full elementary arts magnet school and transitioning into the Freshman Academy as a middle school. We want full time instrument teachers. Fifth/six grade exploratory track by 7 grade pick your track. Kids can build out their area of specialty dance, visual arts, etc.

Other arts magnet schools are using project based learning -- plan to visit other magnet schools in Massachusetts and New Hampshire to see how it's being done. We have to decide what's right for Lowell and what works the best.

STEM academy is also bolstering their STEM practices/specialties. If this happens the way that we're talking about it, we would be really specialized. For next year, we need to look at what we have for space, etc. All of our allied arts teachers teach 1 intervention as well as in their content. We would like to have enough staff to not have them teach out of their content area. The space is certainly going to be an issue-theater, dance space, etc. Looking out at a plan for 1 year, 3 years, and 5 years.

Afterschool is running
PD next week for UDL for all staff

Working on DIBELS dyslexia screener, DESSA F&P and WIDA (from downtown)

Gym floor- there is a timeline, it will be a rubber floor of better quality. December vacation week (will not be accessible for a week after install), weeks leading into February Vacation or the week after (will not be accessible for 2 weeks).

No progress on the stage curtain because Jess from downtown knows that we need one. Also the shed for storing. We have 10 ft behind the two dumpsters in the back. We could do 10x16, 10x18, but only 10 ft deep. Now we need to figure out if we're purchasing, building or hiring someone to build. Hopefully this can be done by the spring. No movement on the roof - got pushed back - we are doing ok with the patches.

Health- uptick in cases of COVID in Lowell. All are coming from outside of the school buildings. The pool testing has increased as far as consents. All the pools have been negative. There's been lots of quarantining. There have been 7 students, 3 staff COVID positive as of 10/24. Vaccine clinic had minimal response - 3 people. Put pool testing link schoolology.

Schoology - PTO post into schoology? Wendy will give permissions and allow postings as a PTO Group.

DESE and being looped into the plan. Possibly assistance from DESE with regards to budgeting?