PROPOSED FY2023 OPERATING BUDGET
Responses to Board Members’ Questions
February 1, 2022

FY 23 OPERATING REQUEST

Received from Mr. Offerman (January 21, 2022 – 11:32 p.m.)

1. I applaud your intention of hiring a large number of school-based staff, especially in Special Education. Given the difficulty of hiring qualified staff in that and other areas, are there any options in using funds not used to hire staff? Given the nation shortage of educators, it would appear this issue deserves some consideration.

We are focused on our efforts to recruit and attract qualified staff to fill our teacher vacancies. In addition to hiring professionally certified teacher candidates, we are also working to recruit career changes who have a degree in the content areas of need. Our Office of Certification and the Office of Organizational Development will work together to plan and implement ongoing support for these conditionally certified teachers to meet with success. In addition, we are continuing our efforts to build our Grow Our Own program for our paraeducators, assisting them with completing the necessary course work and requirements to become fully certified classroom teachers.

2. Given our issues with achievement in Mathematics, was any consideration given to add staffing in that area specifically? I am aware that is national issue, as well, but I have serious concerns about this academic area.

We have focused our efforts to improve mathematics instruction through two strategies:
- Transition to highly rated, evidence-based instructional materials (Bridges curriculum at the elementary level and Illustrative Math curriculum at the secondary levels) that provide greater coherence and aligned rigor to the standards.
- Professional learning aligned to the new curriculum (coherence and rigor) and instructional routines to support critical reasoning skills.

Received from Ms. Henn (January 26, 2022 – 9:55 a.m.)

3. Would you please provide the Board a report listing the current signage for all schools, to include the following information?

   School Name
   Digital Marquee Sign (Y/N)
   Year Installed
   Size
   Cost
   Installation Cost
Total Cost
Funding (Public/Private)
Funding Source (if public) (BCPS Operating/BCPS Capital/BCPS Other/State/Other)

Per Policy and Rule 7260, no marquee sign will be installed on BCPS property unless it has been submitted for review by the Department of Physical Facilities and it has been authorized by the Superintendent following such review. This review process requires that the data requested be provided in all proposals for the installation of new school marquee signs, so it should be accessible.

As Board assets ("The Board shall retain all rights of ownership to marquee signs upon completion of installation."), these are also inventoried with records available for inspection.

After further research, approximately 43 schools have digital marquee signs and approximately 132 schools do not have digital signs. The estimated cost for the installation of a marquee sign varies from school to school, which is in the range from $60,000 - $80,000. The estimated cost includes, but is not limited to, the distance of cable that is required to install the sign, technical specifications, and the size of sign.