

LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD/SAU #68

DATE: February 12, 2025
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT:

Jay Duguay, Chairperson
Kevin Bell
Casey Caulder
Tamra Ham
Joe Bossie
Mandi Avery
Jasmine Weeden

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF/STUDENT PRESENT:

Dr. Mary Steady, Superintendent of Schools
Peter Stivali, Principal
Debbie O'Connor, Financial Manager
Bart King, Technology Assistant

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Paul Schirduan

PUBLIC PRESENT REMOTELY:

Sally Nicoll Krystin Fadden

The Budget Hearing was held in the Elementary School Multipurpose Room.

School Board Chairperson, Jay Duguay called the Hearing to order at 6:31 PM.

Jay Duguay provided highlights of the 2025-2026 Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District Budget:

- The 2025-2026 budget has been level funded with current staff levels. The budget covers the needs of the students of the District and includes supports necessary for students on IEPs, students attending Technical and Career Centers and dual-credit opportunities for college classes as well as other opportunities.
- The General Fund budget for 2025-2026 is 1.8% over the current's year's budget including debt service. The majority of the increase relates to salaries and benefits. Additionally, the amount the District funds for the School Resource Office has increased based on the terms of the grant.
- In the creation of the budget, the Board tried to be judicious with the District's funds and \$131,000 was removed from the budget proposal with a plan to utilize Trust Funds for the projects this total represents. Additionally, the District continues to seek outside grants to cover items such as staff professional development, building maintenance projects, etc.
- The tax rate impact of the operating budget will be 8¢/\$1000 of property valuation in Lincoln and 19¢/\$1000 of property valuation in Woodstock.
- Regarding the warrant articles:
 - The teachers contract article notices two years of costs that relate to the contract term. The amount of \$206,281 for the first year will need to be raised and appropriated this year. The contract terms negotiated keep salaries competitive with other Districts.
 - The cost to complete the Middle/High School (MHS) flooring is included as a warrant article. This amount will cover the 9th and final portion of MHS flooring project. The project was slated to be a 10 year project however, no warrant article was put forward at last year's District meeting.
 - The remaining warrant articles relate to the Capital Reserve and Trust Funds. The allocations for these funds have no tax impact. The allocations from the unassigned fund balance for the Facilities and Technology Trust Funds have been increased this year as the District is working toward the implementation of a Capital Improvement Plan which will be a great tool to anticipate and prepare for future expenses.

Jay Duguay opened public comment at 6:41.

Public comment: None.

Jasmine Weeden made a motion to close the Budget Hearing. Tamra Ham seconded the motion. Discussion: None.
Jay Duguay called a vote to approve the motion. All Board members were in favor and the Budget Hearing closed at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Holt, SAU #68 Administrative Assistant