

Question #1:

Given the uncertainties in funding, it seems like a difficult task. I have a question regarding staff expenses. You mentioned that the District is hiring an additional Physical Therapist and Maintenance Mechanic to replace outside contract providers. I would like to know whether these permanent hires will result in a cost savings to the District or a cost increase versus outsourced services in the previous year's budget, the dollar amount associated this change and the rationale for it?

Response #1:

The current therapist we have under contract also works at a neighboring district and was retiring so we felt it was a good time to hire someone directly. The District need was increasing and with the new therapist being an employee of Solvay it gave us more control over their work schedule. We will have someone in District every day now to meet demand instead of trying to schedule on the days she was not at the other District. There will not be cost savings but a greater potential to service our students.

For the mechanic there won't be cost savings but we will now have 2 mechanics on site full time. We contracted with West Genesee for 1,040 hours a year for service for certain types of bus repairs. The contract also included a charge for the administration of ordering parts and for part of their shop overhead for housing our part time mechanic. We are planning to hire a full time mechanic so we will have more labor hours for bus repairs and less cost for the administration and overhead at West Genny so it's break even!

Question #2:

I am just wondering how the vote will go this year. I know that since it is a mail in things will be different. Who will be counting the votes? When will the results be announced- and how?

Response #2:

The steps for ballot counting are as follows:

- All ballots received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9th, will be verified on the list of eligible voters.
- The election inspector will examine the absentee ballot envelope to ensure there is a name, address, and signature.
 - If there is no name or address, but the signature is legible and can be verified on the mailing spreadsheet, the absentee ballot envelope is valid.
 - If there is no name or address and the signature is not legible, the absentee ballot is not valid.
 - If there is no signature, the absentee ballot is not valid.
 - The number of invalid ballot envelopes will be counted and logged on the totals sheet.
- All valid absentee ballot envelopes will be opened and the folded ballots will be placed inside the ballot box. The absentee ballot envelopes will be separated from the actual ballots.
- Once all valid ballot envelopes are opened, the election inspectors will each be given a specified amount of ballots to review for accuracy.
- Each election inspector will tally the number of Yes, No, and No Answer votes for the budget and will tally the number of responses for the Board of Education election seats and enter these numbers on a tally control sheet.

- After the election inspector has completed the specified number of ballots, they will then give the counted ballots and tally control sheet to an assigned election inspector to be rechecked, and tallies will be entered into a summary spreadsheet.
- This process will continue until all valid ballots have been counted.
- The summary spreadsheet will be reviewed to ensure that the total number listed equals the number of valid ballots and the number of invalid ballots and ballot envelopes.
- Once all totals are verified and the results are determined, the results of both the budget vote and the Board of Education member election will be announced, listed on the school's website, and reported to the news media.