

Media Release 2024-25 Preliminary Budget

The Mellen School Board approved the 2024-25 preliminary budget at the regular board meeting held on June 16, 2024. The approved budget has a projected deficit of <\$47,846> despite the following cuts:

- Removed all referendum related expenses: \$8,500
- Decrease in Health Insurance Premiums by changing from the NSDT to M3: \$75,000
- Staffing Cuts (Health Aide/SpEd Secretary): \$39,000
- Change in SpEd Director services: \$12,000
- Decrease in budgeted School Psychologist Services from CESA 12: \$15,000
- Decrease in natural gas expenses: \$15,000
- CESA 12 24-25 services contract decrease (consultant, coaching and professional development training cut): \$8,500

This is not a complete listing of all the cuts made, only the major ones. Also of note is the elimination of one interventionist position and the alternative education program which had been funded through the ESSER grant. The Baird Model forecast presented in March was built upon maintaining current programming and did not include these cuts which explains the change in the projected deficit.

Despite the decrease in deficit spending, the budgeting concerns have not “gone away.” The district will still likely face deficit spending in future projected budgets. There is no guarantee that health insurance premiums won't increase (medical inflation rates run higher than CPI). In addition, the lack of adequate funding from the state continues to plague public school districts across the state.

The District remains committed to continuing its mission of providing quality education to its students. We respect the democratic process and the will of the community. The Board and Administration remains committed to transparency and collaboration as it navigates the path forward.

For further inquiries, please contact Rhonda Elmhorst-Friemoth at 715-274-3601.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Elmhorst-Friemoth
Superintendent
School District of Mellen