

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING/BUDGET PRESENTATION – APRIL 18, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.
Administration Building – 929 York Street**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph H. Hobika, Jr., Presiding; Danielle Padula, Robert Cardillo, Donald Dawes, Tennille Knoop, James Paul, David Testa

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Brian Nolan, Acting Superintendent; Steve Falchi, Trina Falchi, Mike Ferraro, Sara Klimek, Andre Paradis, Erica Schoff, Kathy Hughes, Pam Smoulcey

President Hobika, Jr. called the Special Meeting/Budget Presentation to order at 5:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance Board Clerk Kathy Hughes conducted Roll Call. All members of the Board of Education were present.

Public Comment

None

Presentation

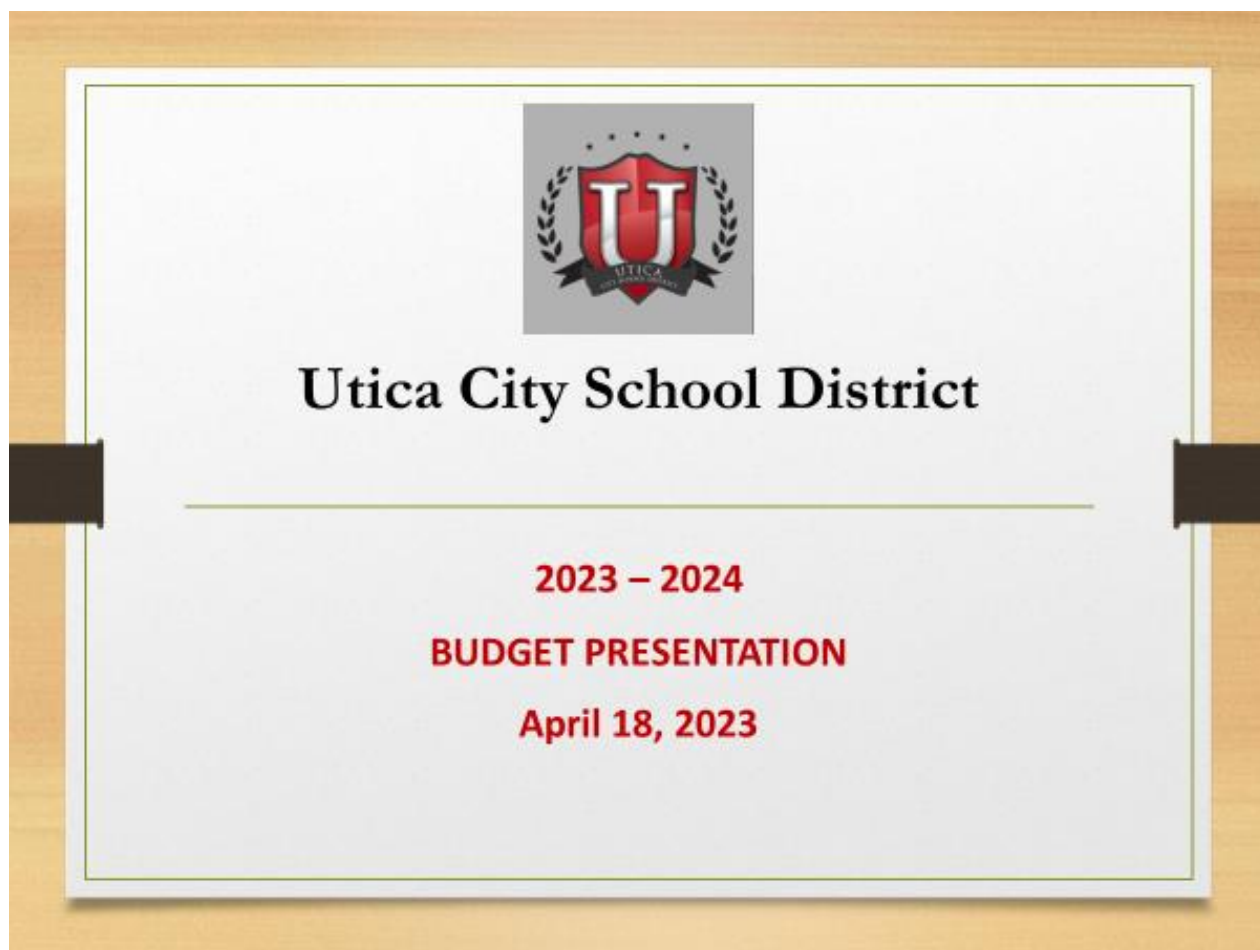
President Hobika, Jr: We are now going to do the presentation of the 2023 – 2024 budget. I will call on Acting Superintendent Brian Nolan to make the presentation.

Utica City School District 2023-2024 Budget Presentation - Brian Nolan, Acting Superintendent

Mr. Nolan: Good evening. It's nice to be here today and we have a very nice budget presentation to make. Everyone, if you do not have a copy there are handouts here that you can grab. So, you know the budget process starts out with looking at what you did the year before, looking at what you have on hand, making plans for the new year and it's a very encompassing project that we probably spent the last 2 - 2 ½ months on. I will go through that and talk about where we are with our budget for this year. A couple things to get us started, so, we ended the 2021 - 2022 school year with an unreserved fund balance of almost 30 million dollars, \$28,900,211 was our unreserved fund balance that we ended last school year with. So that is important for us to look at when we start to develop a budget for this school year moving into it. At this point in the 2022 - 2023 school year, and again this is kind of just trend data so it's actual to today April 18, but it might not be actual at the close of the school year. We are also now trending with an unreserved fund balance of close to 30 million dollars. Financially when you look at the fund balances the district is on very solid financial ground. In past years when the district had to create a budget and move forward there's an item called a RAN borrow. A RAN borrow is a short-term loan that many school districts have to take because there is uncertainty with whether the State funding will come in a timely manner as the school year, the July 1st budget year starts. In the past here in Utica they have always had to take a RAN loan to make sure they met their obligations and not really understanding if the budget would be done on time, or whether the money would be on time. So, it was kind of like an insurance policy for the district to make sure they didn't run out of funding. So, in looking at the budget this year our School Treasure, Haylee Lallier, who talked with our fiscal advisors who usually issue the RAN loans decided that we are in such good physical shape that we don't need to take a RAN loan this year so we are not going to take a

RAN loan, we are not going to borrow money that we don't need to and we are not going to pay interest on money that we don't need to borrow. So those things all kind of are considered as we develop this budget. Those are all really good things to keep in mind and think about and take a look at as we take a look at the presentation today.

Utica City School District
2023-2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION





Utica City School District State Aid

- The Utica City School District appreciates the State of New York for fully funding Foundation Aid
- The district received an increase of approximately \$29 million in Foundation Aid for the 2023-2024 school year
- The district will staff needed positions, provide reasonable supply allocations and meet contractual obligations to fulfill and sustain the programming needs of our students
- The district will add or enhance programs and services for our students in many areas including; teaching & learning, mental health, college and career preparation, athletics, social-emotional learning, school safety, extra-curriculars, etc.



Utica City School District Budget Facts

Additional Positions for 2023-2024

- Five School Counselors – 2 High School / 1 JFK / 2 at Elementary
- Six Social Workers – providing 2 per K-8 Schools / 5 at High School – 29 total
- Six Assistant Principals – 1 High School / 5 Elementary
- Three Deans of Students – 3 Elementary
- One Director – “Upper Elementary” Education (Grades 4-8)
- One Director - ENL, Bilingual Education and World Languages
- One CTE Curriculum Administrator
- One CTE Data Specialist
- One Literacy Specialist K-8
- One Math Specialist K-8



Utica City School District Budget Facts

Additional Positions for 2023-2024

- Two Instructional Data Coaches
- Thirty Related Service Providers (Special Education Department)
 - 1 Physical Therapist
 - 5 Occupational Therapists
 - 13 Speech Therapists
 - 11 Psychologists
- Nine Teachers - 1 Social Studies / 2 Math / 1 Science / 2 Reading / 2 Art / 1 Elementary
- Five Parent Liaisons
- Three Teacher Assistants
- One Coordinator of School Security
- One Assistant Director of Human Resources
- One Coordinator - College/Community Based Partnerships

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Utica City School District Budget Facts

Additional Positions for 2023-2024

- One Clerical - Student Services
- One Parent Advocate
- Eleven Cleaners – 1 each Elementary / 1 Bus Garage
- Three Painters
- One Part-time Strength and Conditioning Coach

- **94 total additional Teachers/Administrators/Support staff**
- **All budget requests for additional staff were made by Chiefs, Principals, and Department Heads**
- **All budget requests have been honored and are included in the budget**

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Utica School District Additional Programs and Services

➤ System of Care

- Safe Schools
- ICAN
- Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection
- HMI Consulting/Student EATS Program
- On Point for College
- Mohawk Valley CC Dual Credit Enrollment
- Enhanced Young Scholars Program- Utica University
- Math Curriculum Audit & Support (American Institutes for Research)
- Trauma Informed Education - District-wide Teacher Professional Development
- 9th Grade Boys Basketball
- Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys Volleyball
- Intramurals/Summer Camps

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Utica School District Elementary Class Size Projections

School	Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
Albany	2023-2024	NA	18	17	17	16	20	25
Columbus	2023-2024	NA	20	22	22	20	23	25
Conkling	2023-2024	NA	19	22	17	18	17	18
General Herkimer	2023-2024	NA	16	16	17	19	18	16
Hughes	2023-2024	NA	21	18	18	21	16	12
Jefferson	2023-2024	NA	14	18	17	18	19	20
Jones	2023-2024	NA	18	14	14	17	22	20
Kernan	2023-2024	NA	20	18	20	16	19	19
MLK	2023-2024	NA	14	20	19	17	17	16
Watson Williams	2023-2024	NA	18	25	17	20	21	21
Utica City School District	2023-2024	NA	18	19	18	18	19	19

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Utica School District Secondary Class Size Projections

These include seasonal AIN labs and Regents prep classes. The ranges reflect a conservative estimate, as enrollment numbers increase on a daily basis

Department	Projected Average Class Sizes
English	
Proctor	22-24
Donovan	21-22
JFK	21-22
Mathematics	
Proctor	22-24
Donovan	20-22
JFK	20-22
Science	
Proctor	22-24
Donovan	20-22
JFK	20-22
Social Studies	
Proctor	22-24
Donovan	20-22
JFK	20-22
LOTE	
Proctor	22-24
Donovan	22-24
JFK	22-24

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Utica School District Charter School Expenditures (Year 11)

Total Tuition Costs 2023-2024	(858 X \$12,563)	- \$10,779,054
Transportation Cost	(All students will attend Frankfort site)	- \$ 1,196,302
Textbook Cost	(858 total students)	- \$ 49,979
Nursing Services	(\$61,856 X 2 nurses)	- \$ 123,736
Nursing Supplies	(\$2,000 X 2)	- \$ 4,000
TOTAL COST TO UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR YEAR 11		\$12,153,071

AMOUNT EXPENDED FOR THE CHARTER SCHOOL OVER THE FIRST TEN YEARS IS APPROXIMATELY
\$58,874,195

TOTAL COST FOR CHARTER SCHOOL EXPENDITURES OVER ELEVEN YEARS IS
\$71,027,266

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Utica City School District BUDGET TO BUDGET INCREASE

The preliminary budget for 2023-2024 is: **\$243,340,050**

The 2022-2023 budget was: \$213,512,562

Budget Increase: **\$ 29,827,488**

The overall budget increase is **12.25%**



Utica City School District Budget Facts

Reasons for 2023-2024 School District Budget Increase:

- Additional Staff
- Additional programs and services for students
- Charter School tuition -rate set by NYSED
- Contractual obligations such as increases in salaries and employee benefits
- Transportation Costs
- Debt Service
- Supply Costs – All Schools, Departments



Utica City School District Projected Revenue = \$243,340,050

Real Property Taxes	\$25,170,410	Refund Prior Year Expenditures	\$1,000,000
Pilots	\$600,000	Unclassified Revenue	\$300,000
STAR	\$4,835,455	Basic Formula	\$165,184,275
Taxes on Utilities	\$1,400,000	Excess Cost Aid	\$6,153,353
Admissions	\$12,500	BOCES	\$17,401,435
Day Tuition Other	\$20,000	Lottery Aid	\$18,543,900
Health Services	\$13,000	Textbooks/Software/Library	\$838,277
Interest and Earnings	\$25,000	Computer Hardware	\$230,875
Rental of Real Property	\$5,000	Charter School Transition	\$895,070
Commissions	\$10,000	Medicaid Assistance	\$300,000
Sale of Scrap & Excess	\$1,500	Medicare Part "D"	\$300,000
Insurance Recovery (other)	\$100,000		

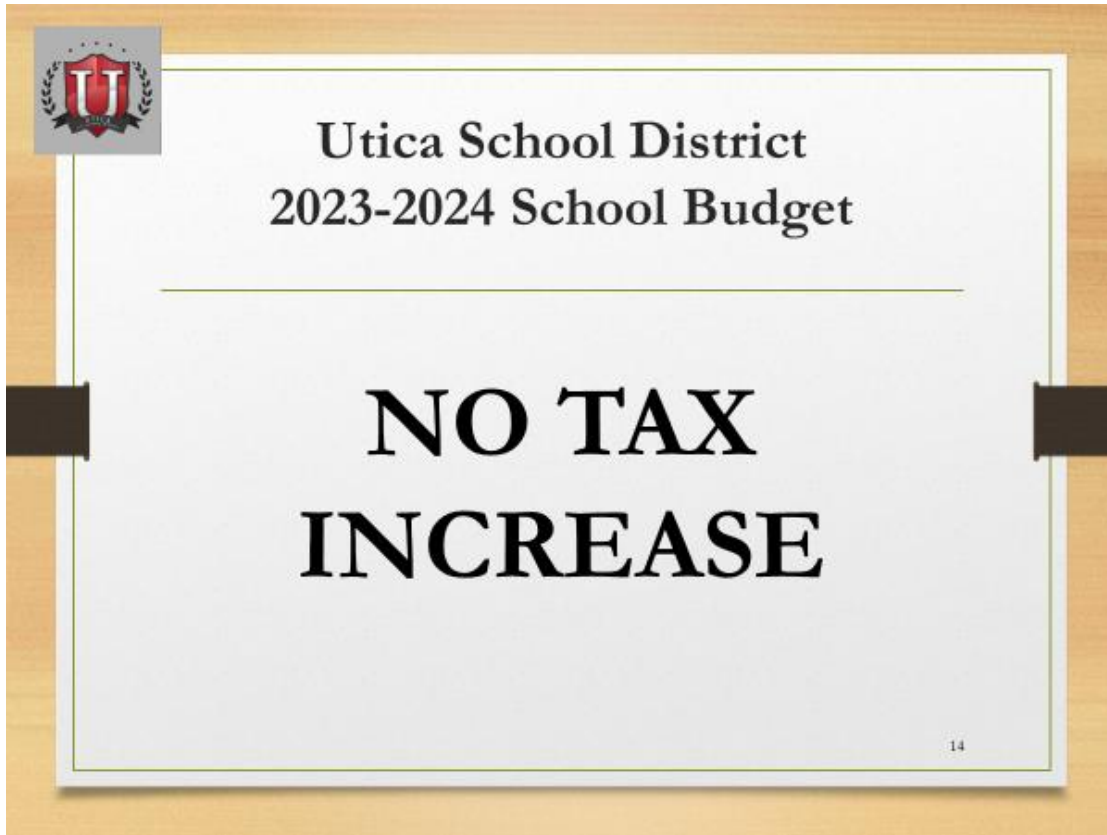
PROJECTED REVENUE \$243,340,050



Utica School District 2023-2024 General Fund Budget

Projected 2023-2024 Expenses	\$ 243,340,050
Projected 2023-2024 Revenues	<u>\$ 243,340,050</u>
	\$ 0

The District has a balanced budget



QUESTIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

President Hobika, Jr.: I just had a question; so was there any difference in the budget process in arriving at this proposed budget that the district followed versus the practices that the district has followed in the past in determining what our needs and what our priorities are.

Mr. Nolan: Well as far as your question goes, the presentation will answer that but I will say this was a very inclusive process you will see that as I move forward here. Again, as I said we have been working on this for 2 ½ months and we have included, at the granular level, teachers in buildings, school leadership teams, building principals, district staff and really went back and forth with that kind of like having a wish list, but not really having a wish list. Trying to fund a budget that is an actual budget to fund to meet the needs we have. It was a very dynamic process. I can't really speak to what happened in the past but from people that were here in the past they said that this is the first time that they actually had a budget process where they felt that they were heard, that their considerations were taken into account and were made part of the budget. So, I'll address a little bit more of that as I move forward.

Mr. Cardillo: What about girls' sports?

Mr. Nolan: The girls' sports, we asked the same questions, Bob, that's a great question. There were no sports that we didn't have for the girls that we could have. So that's really kind of why. There's girls' volleyball. Girls basketball numbers aren't as high as the boys' basketball numbers.

Mr. Nolan: Mr. Falchi is there anything you want to say about the class sizes?

Mr. Falchi: So, the one thing I will say is that over the last five years we've really been able to reduce class size, especially at the elementary level. The areas where you see the larger class sizes 25, there is no more space in that building to add a section or we would. We gave the principals an opportunity to balance their class sizes and request any additional teachers. Only one principal asked for an additional teacher and that was at Jones School to decrease one of the grade level class sizes. If you look at where we were six years ago to where we are today the class sizes have been reduced significantly at the elementary level.

President Hobika, Jr.: I just had a question about that.

Mr. Nolan: Yes sir.

President Hobika, Jr.: So obviously now that the charter school is located in Frankfort, from what I've been told, if a kid from Utica wants to go to that Charter School Utica has to pay the tuition, correct?

Mr. Nolan: That's correct and transportation.

President Hobika, Jr.: And transportation and in this budget, it's reflected that we're paying a certain, there's 858 students from Utica that are attending that school at the time, right? And we have to transport them.

Mr. Nolan: That's correct.

President Hobika, Jr.: And this is what I was curious about because if you look at the additional cost, which is textbook, nursing services and supplies. That's really only a total of about \$177,000. Where is the cost reflected for the ancillary services that we are providing because it's not provided in the expenses listed there.

Mr. Nolan: So, it's the nursing, it's the two nurses and then their supplies. But what we don't really have in here per se is like what a 0.2 OT person cost or what a 0.2 speech person costs.

President Hobika, Jr.: So that's reflected in our actual budget it's just not reflected in this slide.

Mr. Nolan: It's not in this slide. It would be more. The real issue is, well, the cost is an issue for sure, right?

President Hobika, Jr.: Right.

Mr. Nolan: But the real issue is we're pulling support staff that we need to meet the needs we have here in our own schools.

President Hobika, Jr.: When you say support staff, you're talking about a 0.2 of OT?

Mr. Nolan: Yes, two nurses.

President Hobika, Jr.: And 2 nurses. But we need them for our District, so there should be some contribution from Frankfort since they are now the site of the Utica School.

Mr. Nolan: Yes I was going to make the suggestion that I think the Board should try to find, whether, it's an attorney or someone with educational background about Charter Schools. My understanding and this is just my understanding of when you have a Private School, Charter School is a little different, so the Charter might be different and I don't want to misspeak, but I think it's important for us to find someone who understands the Charter School law well. If New Hartford had a Private School in it and there were a lot of Utica City School students who went to that school we would still be obligated to transport them. We wouldn't have to pay the tuition because it's a Private School, but we would have to transport them. If some of those Utica students who

went to that school, that Private School, received special education services, New Hartford because the school is hosted in their school district, would be responsible for the special ed teacher or any related service staff that that student might need. In addition to that, New Hartford would be responsible providing like nursing service, right? So, I'm thinking that we do some research since the Charter School it's actually in Frankfort Schuyler. We may not be off the hook for paying for tuition for our students to go there or transportation for them to go there, but we should be off the hook for every other cost that might be associated with that. Which again, might not be a lot, but I think it's worth our effort to try to have someone research that for us so we can have a much more informed idea than just coming from me. I called State Ed and I talked to the people in Charter School and they're tremendous advocates for Charter School. So, their response to me when I told them about our issue with staffing, they said we'll just write a letter to the Charter School leadership and let them know that you're probably not going to be able to send and I thought, ok, we can do that but is that really the that's really not the answer. You can see it's been quite a bit of money.

Mr. Paul: Mr. Nolan I have a question for you. When you look at the numbers here, so we have 858 students, is that at the beginning of the school year or what they have there currently?

Mr. Nolan: So that would be what's projected for next year, which I think is probably the number that we have for right now. Is that right Mr. Falchi?

Mr. Falchi: Yes.

Mr. Paul: Do we know What the recidivism rate is? So, do we know how many kids start there and we pay the 12 1/2 thousand per student and how many actually returned to our district, where the charter because my understanding is that they will keep that money. It doesn't return it to the District. Is that correct?

Mr. Nolan: That's correct.

Mr. Paul: Ok so do we know how many will actually come back to the district?

Mr. Nolan: We do know the students that come back because they have to re-enroll and register here. What we don't know are the students who are Utica students who may leave there and go somewhere else. We are dependent on the Charter School for providing us with the correct information.

Mr. Paul: So now are they part of; do we look at their budget? Are we able to say, ok, we know what because we're funding their district?

President Hobika, Jr.: No, we are not entitled to inspect or do anything under the law. The question that I have is I think there's a payment schedule. Mr. Falchi you may know just from your prior experience, I don't know, you may know is there some kind of payment schedule that we make we don't just pay the tuition all up front on day one right?

Mr. Falchi: To be honest I am not sure what the payment schedule is.

Mr. Paul: That would be a question for Ms. Albanese.

Mr. Nolan: It's really a good topic for further discussion.

President Hobika, Jr: I think we should you know flush this out so we at least have some understanding at some point in the future. I'm sure when our new business official comes in, she'll amongst all the other things that she's going to be doing, I'm sure she'll be able to parse this down as well.

Mr. Nolan: I am sure from a financial standpoint yes, but I think from the Charter School language, we should get somebody who is an expert.

President Hobika, Jr.: If there is one, because most people just tell you, nope can't do it.

Mr. Nolan: That's a good point, that's usually the answer. But that's where we stand with it. That's the liability we have. That's \$12 million that's not staying with the Utica City School District.

President Hobika, Jr.: One more thing Mr. Nolan, I'm sorry, I thought last year the tuition might have been \$10,000 and some change. Did they somehow get an increase?

Mr. Nolan: The State sets it.

President Hobika, Jr.: Ok

Mr. Nolan: It gets set by the State.

President Hobika, Jr.: So basically, what you're saying is this particular budget reflects what's going to be used and does not contain, let's say, I don't know 100 positions that will never be filled?

Mr. Nolan: That's correct.

President Hobika, Jr.: Ok. Does anyone have any questions?

Mrs. Padula: So, in the past we've talked about creating these positions and they went unfilled. For example, the Assistant Principals in elementary level, which has always been a concern of mine. I think that they're much needed. So, in this budget, I know we haven't seen every line item, but is there resources available as far as marketing for these positions or some sort of campaign? I think it was last year when we did a campaign with the media outlet and we didn't get too much attention from it as far as applicants. But within this budget, do you feel comfortable with hiring all these positions?

Ms. Klimek: It's definitely going to be a lot, but we have a really great team and some new processes that have been established to promote the benefits of working for the Utica City School District. So, I'm pretty confident. I can't tell you every single thing will be fulfilled, but we are definitely trying in some new ways.

Mrs. Padula: Ok, I just want to make sure that you have the resources when it comes to marketing or campaigning for these positions.

Ms. Klimek: So, some of those resources you will be introduced to next week as well.

Mrs. Padula: Perfect.

President Hobika, Jr.: Can I just ask a question to follow up on that? Have you found, since you've now taken over the position, that there's an increase in people interested in coming to work for the district?

Ms. Klimek: Oh, absolutely. Previously, the district would not receive any applications or very few for various positions. For Andres' position, actually we had a file folder like this thick full of applicants who are very eager to work for the district and some of them reapplied for other administrative positions as well. We have a lot of people who want to come on board now.

President Hobika, Jr.: What's our plan to fill the Special Ed TA's? Do we have a plan for that?

Ms. Klimek: Pam and I work pretty closely on that. It's a tricky process because you have to make sure you know I'm not just going to hire warm bodies. These are people who are going to be caring for children with special needs all day. So, we're pretty particular during the interview process. We also want to make sure that people understand the certification needs and how to go about getting that? So, it's not like hiring substitutes or something else. There's a lot more to that. We are constantly collecting applications. We'll sift through them and pick a day or two on a particular couple days throughout the month and just interview people and see what happens with that.

President Hobika, Jr.: Does anyone else have any questions? For not just Sara, but anyone else.

Mr. Paul: So warm bodies just don't work?

Ms. Klimek: Warm bodies don't work, no.

President Hobika, Jr.: I am going to bring up something that I know I talk about a lot. So, when we were discussing our fund balance and we feel it's about 30 million, up from 28 from the year before. Is that taking into account the Brewster's Billions effort where we you know have purchased things outside the budget process? Do we have a handle on that or do we have to wait till Heather comes in to make the budget transfers?

Mr. Nolan: I believe he have a very good handle on it. One of the things that the Chiefs and the Directors have been doing is looking at the budget, Heather has already been working with us, on looking at those areas of the budget. It appears to us that we've discovered some of that and have taken care of it already and we don't really think unless again, there's some surprise that we just haven't been able to uncover yet, but we think we have a pretty good handle on that. That's been addressed and I don't want to just be the only one answer that because Mike and Steve have been here a lot longer than I have, and Sara.

President Hobika, Jr.: So, there's going to come point in time when a presentation is going to be made to the Board to accomplish the budget transfers necessary, right? Because we have some lines where purchases have been made that went in excess of the budgeted amount, correct. So, are you saying because my understanding is that in order to really meet all of the markers there has to be approval of the budget transfers to bring the budget lines to zero, right? If you're spending as opposed to, negative \$200,000 or whatever it happens to be maybe we can ask Heather I don't know.

Mr. Nolan: No, I think well we can certainly ask Heather, and she's had her eyes on the budget, so she might have some input to share with us. I believe that the two areas that we have the most difficulty with, were the purchase of some musical instruments and musical equipment and some playgrounds.

President Hobika, Jr.: And some desks

Mr. Nolan: We did a complete review of those three areas. So definitely the desks that were purchased for Proctor High School did not follow the appropriate process. We determined that the cost was correct. We determined that it was part of the State contract, the price we paid. We determined that the price we paid would be the price we would have paid if the correct process was followed. So, then I just want to talk about the playgrounds. The playgrounds were also, the process for purchasing the playgrounds did not follow the correct process in the way that the paperwork should have been handled, but the playgrounds themselves were on State contract so, that it met the criteria of buying a playground. It was needed, so let's talk about that too. They were needed but it met the costs of the State contract, we couldn't have paid any less for it. We probably couldn't have paid anymore for it. We paid what the State contract said we did. Now let's talk about the musical instruments which is the other.

President Hobika, Jr.: Can I address those first? Sorry. First of all, yes, they were purchased by/on State contract. But there was a \$32,000 add-on for installation and removal. That just seemed to me to be far in excess number one. Number two, it was a \$200,000 plus acquisition that didn't come before the Board. It was far in excess of what the budgeted amount, if there was a budgeted amount. So, I'm not crying over spilled milk. My point is that type of acquisition or expenditure should have come before the Board and I just want to make sure that and I've been talking about this for months, that we make sure that no matter who's sitting in these seats, that type of process does not occur in the future. And then just let me say just the issue of the playgrounds again, yes nobody is arguing that playgrounds aren't a good thing for kids. The question that comes up they were, again, in excess of, I believe \$200,000 or more a piece. I think it's an application that will come to the Board to authorize the acquisition or decide whether or not we wanted to have a playgrounds or if we wanted to have, I don't know, \$200,000 bouncy houses. But my point is that we just need to have a handle on that. At this point we have the money so we can cover whatever it is. My whole thing is about the process, procedure, accountability and the Board doing; because application should have come to the Board to say do you want to acquire these things and then there would be approval process or a rejection. So, and that's not your fight.

Mr. Nolan: If you don't mind I'd just like to just address that. So, I inherited this.

President Hobika, Jr.: Yes, you did

Mr. Nolan: So, I get here and I inherited it. For a while there wasn't a day that goes by that I didn't hear about it, right. So, I do want to say this that you're absolutely right. We discovered the process was not followed correctly. We completely understand the concern that was raised. Ultimately, the Board can hold the person who was responsible for the purchases of those without following process accountable, right? That's your discretion now. You can hold that person accountable for directing the people that are sitting in those chairs to do things that they knew weren't following the process, but were told to do. So, the only person, or the only group that can hold the person who is responsible for that happening is sitting here at these tables.

President Hobika, Jr.: Yes.

Mr. Nolan: So, we've corrected the situation. We no longer not follow process. In fact, we're bringing forward a policy change next week for the bidding process. What we discovered is the policy is \$1,000. We'll talk about it when the policy comes up next week, but I can assure you that everybody that now works for the school district now understands that there's a process that has to be followed that no one is being complicit to this Acting Superintendent directions of not following policy. In fact, I'm probably more of a process guy than I care to admit, because I never was a process guy before, a long time ago. But the process was definitely not followed, but we were able to make sure that there were the appropriate payments made for the items that were received. I don't know how to address the \$32,000, I think that's the first time I am hearing that. I don't even know what that is, but I know what we paid for the desks was the desks cost. I know what we paid for the playgrounds was the playgrounds cost. I know that the musical instruments that were delivered, that we received, the kids are using, we paid the true cost for those. So other than saying yes, the process wasn't followed, it was not done appropriately 100% and that's not happening anymore.

President Hobika, Jr.: I am confident that with Heather here as our Business Official the process is going to be followed. But again, nobody's quibbling over whether musical instruments should have been acquired. And again, I know I keep going back to the process and I know that we're going to have that in place. But you know that was close to \$1,000,000 in acquisition that were not authorized by the Board. And again, you're delivering 1,000 desks, and you're paying a vendor \$32,000 to bring them in a school and dispose of them or bring them out of the school. I just couldn't fathom how that number made any sense. So again, I know we're addressing things

one issue at a time, but we are going to have to have, I would assume, some budget transfers in order to correct that.

Mr. Paul: I had a question. So, at whose directive were those purchases made?

President Hobika, Jr.: I couldn't tell you.

Mr. Paul: Nobody knows? I mean we are talking about

Mr. Nolan: I think it's obvious. I don't want to go down the rabbit hole. I've lived there for too long, for the last 4 months.

Mr. Paul: No, I understand obvious, but I want it on the record. Because we've got some folks that were under the impression that those things weren't happening and that person didn't do it, we keep asking, acting as if that person is dead and gone.

President Hobika, Jr.: Does anybody else have any questions? I don't even feel like the need to talk about the musical instruments again Brian.

Mr. Nolan: Oh, thank you.

President Hobika, Jr.: So, you're off the hook. Does anybody else have any questions, comments? No, ok.

Mr. Nolan: Were having some other?

President Hobika, Jr.: Oh yes, I'm sorry. So, what we're going to do, we are going to schedule in the next several weeks some budget informational meetings in the various parts of the city, just to share this information. To allow parents and taxpayers to attend and ask any questions that they might have, hopefully. It's very important that this budget pass because we are really putting the financial might of the district behind the effort to improve the lives of our students and the parents without any significant impact on the taxpayers. We'll send out notices and issue some releases on the dates and the locations of our budget presentations. I want to thank everybody for coming in and I do want to acknowledge significant efforts of our Chiefs and the other administrators, the teachers and everyone else involved in this budget process. I'm glad it was collaborative. It's what we've been wanting and wishing for. So, hopefully we're going to have a buy in from everybody, and the 2023 – 2024 year will continue the positive trend for the Utica School District.

Adjournment

Mr. Testa made a motion to adjourn the April 18, 2023 Special Meeting; seconded by Mrs. Knoop.

There being no further discussion, **motion carried 7-0.**

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully transcribed and submitted,

STEPHANIE LYNESS
Assistant Board Clerk