Stanwood-Camano School District honing budget for coming year

By EVAN CALDWELL
ecaldwell@scnews.com

For the second year in a row, the Stanwood-Camano School District is projecting to spend more than it takes in.

Steve Lidgard, the district’s business and finance director, said the preliminary 2022-23 school budget will get a public hearing at the Aug. 16 School Board meeting. The $76.6 million preliminary budget has more expenditures than revenue. Revenue this upcoming year is estimated to be $78.4 million.

With a beginning general fund balance of $9.1 million, the gap will be covered.

Even with shortages, the projected ending general fund balance of $4.8 million would meet the minimum fund policy of 5% of total revenue and have a sustainable budget, Lidgard said.

The biggest driver of the budget is enrollment. The budget is based on an estimated 4,700 students, which would be up slightly from last year at 4,536.

Adding to the rising costs this year is inflation, particularly high diesel fuel prices for buses and the end of federally funded free breakfasts and lunches, Lidgard told the board.

To view the draft budget, visit stanwood.wednet.edu.

Donations

The Stanwood-Camano School Board approved three recent donations:

• $49,717 from the Washington State PFA Foundation for non-consumable AG Science supplies
• $814.25 from the Stanwood High School 4A Booster Club to cover transportation costs for cross country
• A $217.71 donation from Stanwood Elementary PTO to cover transportation costs for the kindergarten field trip to the Everett Children’s Museum
• A $460 from Elger Bay Elementary PFA for 5th Grade attendance at the Everett Children’s Museum

The city is hoping to start construction next spring or early summer.

“The committee has had an appeal, and we ended up withdrawing the application (for permits),” Love said. “We anticipated that the city and state Department of Fish and Wildlife) would do two separate projects and then the city ended up getting funding, so to a certain way, it got complicated.”

She said that after they withdrew their application, they combined information from both agencies into one and had to redo the entire review.

The city had about $1 million in its construction budget and estimated an additional $10,000 for things like design.