

Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

For Immediate Release

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Board approved tentative budget for 2019-2020

The Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education Tuesday approved a balanced Tentative Budget for the 2019-2020 school year totaling \$99.5 million in expenditures by using operating funds to pay down debt and keep property taxes flat.

Property Tax revenues will not increase due to Board action last December. This is the fourth consecutive year that the district has lowered or kept its levy flat resulting in less property tax revenue. Final budget approval will be voted on following a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Risa Hanson, district chief financial officer, said District 200 ended the 2019 fiscal year with positive fund balances in all of the operating funds. The operating funds include the educational, operations and maintenance, transportation, social security, and working cash funds.

Local revenue sources including property taxes, interest earnings and fees account for over 67%, or \$65 million, of District 200's budget. State sources will bring another \$25.9 million into the budget. An additional \$5.1 million will come from federal sources. In total, the revenue budget has increased .8% compared to budgeted revenues from last year.

Under the State of Illinois' new funding formula, State revenues are budgeted to increase 3.6%. The new funding formula takes into account District 200's unique student population and provides additional revenue for students based on regular education, special education, poverty, and English language learners. The greater the student need, the more funding a district receives. Also included in State revenues are Special Education and Transportation reimbursements, which are based on claims submitted to the State for costs from the prior school year and are projected to decrease less than \$20,000.

Employees' salaries and benefits account for more than 76 percent of expenditures with the balance, approximately 24%, going toward purchased services, supplies, utilities, tuition, equipment, and debt service that directly support the educational programs provided by District 200.

The cost of natural gas and the need to heat and air condition schools will continue to have an impact on the FY20 budget. A total of \$1.8 million has been budgeted in the Operations & Maintenance Fund for gas, electric and other utilities this year. This year's budget does not include any financing for equipment or other capital improvement needs.

Approximately \$5.5 million in grant expenditures are included in the 2019-2020 budget which will be used to enhance District 200's instructional program beyond the resources available through typical revenue sources.

Capital outlay expenditures increased \$59,000 to account for ongoing Health & Life Safety projects performed during summer 2019, the purchase of used buses, security upgrades at all schools and renovations at Olson Elementary School for the Challenger Learning Center.

A complete copy of the District 200 budget can be viewed on the district website at www.woodstockschool.org

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