



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, May 8, 2023**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023. The meeting began at 6 pm and was held in-person at Union Event Center and virtually via a Zoom link posted on the Mead School District website. Directors Denholm, Burchard, Olson, Cannon and Gray were present. Also attending were Superintendent Shawn Woodward, Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson and Assistant Superintendents Heather Havens and Jared Hoadley.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with President Denholm asking all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Agenda

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

Director Olson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 24, 2023, as presented. Director Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Remarks for the Good of the Schools - Public Comment

Noting there were no community members/individuals present who signed-up to speak on agenda topics, President Denholm first opened the floor for representatives from the Mead High School ASB class to speak. This was followed by board/staff comments.

Mead High School Update

ASB officers Hudson Byrd (President), Rylee Brower (Vice-President) and Audrey Williams (Secretary) provided a brief review of the academic, athletic, leadership and music events recently completed and upcoming at Mead High School. In recapping the success of spring sport teams, it was shared that soccer (boys) is this year's GSL Champion and will be playing in the District 8 Championship Game on May 9th. Students participated in a *Mock Crash* activity during the first week of May and the *Senior Prom* was May 6th. To honor teachers during *Teacher Appreciation Week* (May 8-12) the ASB Class has several "thank you" activities planned that will take place throughout the entire week. *Senior Awards Night* is May 24th, the *End of the Year Assembly* is June 2nd and *Graduation* takes place on June 9th.

Board/Staff Comments

Noting it is *National School Nurses Week*, Director Gray thanked the fantastic nurses employed by the Mead School District. Director Burchard, referencing *Teacher Appreciation Week*, expressed his thanks to Mead School District teachers.

Director Cannon, who has been a spectator at a number of Mead High School soccer games this spring, congratulated the team on being GSL Champions –something that has not happened in a number of years. If the team wins one more game they will qualify for State.

V. Continuing Business

A. Resolution 23-02

2023-2024 Modified Educational Program

Superintendent Woodward presented Resolution 23-02, 2023-2024 Modified Educational Program, for board consideration as an action item. This resolution was presented for first reading, non-action, at the April 24, 2023, board meeting.

The Mead School District Board of Directors on March 27, 2023, adopted Resolution 23-01, 2023-2024 Financial Emergency and Budget Uncertainty, that directed Superintendent Woodward to develop and recommend to the board a Modified Educational Program to address and resolve this budget uncertainty. As shared in detail at the April 24th meeting, Resolution 23-02 includes items representing reduced expenditures of approximately \$5 million to address and resolve the district's financial emergency and general uncertainty for the 2023-2024 school year. A copy of the resolution, that includes an itemized list of the categories identified for reduction and the savings associated with each item, is attached. No changes in the line item reductions were made following the April 24th first reading of the presented resolution.

Director Cannon made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-02, 2023-2024 Modified Educational Program, as presented. Director Burchard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. February 2024 Levy Rate

Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson, noting information on the district's financial situation and the upcoming February 2024 levy renewal ballot measure have, on multiple occasions over the past two months, been shared at regular board meetings and board work sessions, presented the following recap of this information. (A copy of the PowerPoint used during the presentation is attached.)

- A recap of what the levy funds that included the following percentage information:
 - 20% Principal's Office
 - 22% Technology
 - 52% Multi-Language Learners
 - 8% Special Education
 - 46% Custodial
 - 25% Maintenance/Grounds
 - 39% Nurses/Health Services
 - 12.5% Teaching . . . This includes teachers, para-educators & co-curricular stipends (band, choir, orchestra, drama, debate, ASB, yearbook, etc.)
 - 100% Extracurricular
 - 19% Transportation
- A recap of historical tax rates that included graphs illustrating Mead School District tax rates (bond + levy) and total school tax rates (bond + levy + state) from 2010 to 2023. Mead School District bond + levy rates ranged from a high of \$5.61 in 2011 to a low (2023) of \$2.99. Bond + levy + state rates ranged from a high of \$7.85 in 2011 to a low (2023) of \$5.20. If the district had a current (2023) \$2.50 levy rate the total bond + levy + state rate would be \$6.06. This is below the 2022 rate of \$6.24.
- A review of the impact of a \$2.50 levy on four different residential properties.
- As requested at the April 24th board meeting, the presentation of information on the cost to homeowners at various levy rates. The difference between the current, 2023 levy rate of \$1.63 (plus current/2023 bond rate of \$1.36) and \$2.50 (plus future bond rate of \$1.13) for a home with an assessed value of \$375,000 is \$240 a year (\$20/month - \$0.66/day).
- A recap of actual and projected *Cashflow* (2020/21 - 2024/25).
- A recap of actual and projected *Fund Balance* at \$2.25 and \$2.50 (2013/14 - 2026/27).

The presentation began and ended with the very strong administrative recommendation that a \$2.50 levy rate receive board approval. Ms. Ellingson noted the information presented is not new. It is a reminder of the “why” for a \$2.50 levy rate. She additionally shared that, given the district’s current financial situation, it would be irresponsible to recommend anything less than a \$2.50 levy rate. A \$2.50 rate puts the district on a path to financial recovery and would allow for enhancing some areas such as safety/security. If new or unanticipated state/federal revenues are received, and the district no longer needs a \$2.50 levy, a portion of the levy can be rolled back. However, if a lesser rate is approved the district cannot go back to the public and ask for more.

The actual levy resolution will be brought forward for adoption at a later date. Having board approval of the levy rate at this time allows the district to start putting together information on the ballot measure.

In response to a question from President Denholm, Ms. Ellingson confirmed that, while three years ago Mead elected to go with a \$2.00 levy rate, other districts in the area asked for the max \$2.50 levy and those levies received voter approval.

In response to a question from Director Burchard, Ms. Ellingson reviewed how the steep increase in assessed valuation reduced a projected levy rate for 2023 of \$2 to \$1.63. Voters approve a set levy dollar amount and, therefore, the rate fluctuates based on changes in assessed valuation. The district will wait until Spokane County confirms 2024 assessed valuations (finalized in July) before determining the actual levy dollar amounts that will be on the ballot for 2025, 2026 and 2027. If assessed values exceed predictions the levy rate will go down. If assessed values drop the levy is capped at a rate of \$2.50 even if voters approved a higher overall dollar amount for the year in question. It will be important to educate the public on how assessed values impact property taxes. An increase in assessed value does not increase the dollar amount the district receives via the local levy.

In response to a question from Director Olson, Ms. Ellingson confirmed that the state has increased the cap on Special Education funding from 13.5% to 15%. This will be helpful to the district as enrollment in Special Education is steadily increasing.

In response to a question from Director Gray, Ms. Ellingson shared the failure of the 2019 Supplemental Levy, that was allowed when the state realized a \$1.50 levy was not adequate, could be attributed to the fact that this was an “outside of the ordinary” ballot measure that was confusing to many voters.

Director Cannon, referencing information shared at a recent meeting of school board members from Spokane County, shared that almost all area school districts are in the same situation as Mead regarding the loss of LEA funding because of the steep increase in assessed valuations for 2023. An unintended consequence of this rise in assessed values is that, collectively, area school districts missed out on approximately \$50 million in LEA funding. He proposed waiting to approve a levy rate until 2024 assessed values are finalized, noting it would be worthwhile to have a conversation with the Assessor’s Office to share the impact of assessed valuations on school districts.

On the subject of deferring a vote, President Denholm noted the item is on the agenda for action to allow the district ample time to prepare information to share with the public.

Regarding 2024 assessed valuations, Ms. Ellingson noted all indicators point to valuations going up. The Assessor’s Office is charged with having homes assessed at fair market value.

Director Cannon shared he is nervous to vote on a final levy rate at this time. He doesn’t believe the district is currently prepared to share the “why” for a \$2.50 levy rate.

Director Olson, stating he does not see any point in delaying action on the item, made a motion to have a \$2.50 levy rate on the February 2024 ballot.

Director Burchard expressed concern about waiting too long to make a decision as there is lots of work associated with running a levy campaign, not just for the district but also for the Citizen’s Advisory Committee.

Director Cannon again shared he wants the district to be prepared to answer questions from the community now and he does not believe that is the current reality. Therefore, he is in favor of delaying a decision.

Ms. Ellingson again reviewed the “why” for a \$2.50 rate and pointed out the difference between a rate of \$2.25 and \$2.50 is \$0.50 per day for a typical homeowner.

Director Burchard seconded the motion made by Director Olson to have a \$2.50 levy rate on the February 2024 ballot. The motion carried. (Director Cannon voted no on the motion.)

VI. New Business
A. Consent Agenda

Director Cannon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Director Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Hired Certificated Personnel:

Kayla Edgmon	Creekside	Cert	.5 FTE Leave Replacement Preschool Teacher in addition to .5 FTE Leave Replacement effective 5/1/23 - 6/20/23
Lucy Mordue	Special Services	Cert	1.0 FTE Leave Replacement Home Support Teacher effective 4/20/23 - 6/20/23

2. Hired Classified Personnel:

Shelley Mader | Colbert | Class | 3.7 hrs/day Para Educator effective 4/27/23

3. Hired Certificated Substitutes:

Kyra Furuta	Katie Booher	James Loucks	Brenna Juul
Kailee Morris			

4. Hired Classified Substitutes:

Zoe Vincent | Sarah Bowers | Tiffany Isakson |

5. Approved AP Vouchers for General Fund, Capitol Projects, Private Purpose Trust & ASB.

Vouchers audited and certified by auditing officers as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the Board. As of this day, **May 8, 2023**, the Board, by a unanimous vote does approve for payment the vouchers included in the above referenced list and further described as **Warrant Numbers 111165 to 111397** in the following amounts:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund - AP	\$ 573,929.88
General Fund - PR	10,846,061.43
ASB Fund	53,639.22
Capital Projects Fund	92,434.59

6. Accepted the Following Donations:

- \$500.00 from Valente Chiropractic to Mt. Spokane HS Boys Basketball Summer Camp Shirts
- \$500.00 from CoBank to Brentwood Elementary
- \$500.00 from Bell-Anderson Insurance to DLC Olympics

7. Approved STEM, Mead High School Athletic and Mt. Spokane High School Athletic Summer Camp fees.

8. Approved Requests for Unpaid Leave (i.e., parenting, medical, Good of the District, etc.):

Kara Dewar	Highland	Class	May 15-19, 2023
Carol Anson	Mountainside	Class	May 18-19, 2023

9. Approved Requests for Retirement/Resignation:

June Geissler	Northwood	Cert	Retirement effective 8/31/23 (teacher)
Virginia Ekins	Skyline	Class	Resignation effective 4/25/23 (para)
Melissa Martin	Mountainside	Cert	Retirement effective 8/31/23 (teacher)
Vicki Gardner	Mt. Spokane	Cert	Retirement effective 8/31/23 (teacher)
Paul Lang	Northwood	Class	Retirement effective 5/9/23 (custodian)
Robert Haugen	District Office	Cert	Resignation effective 6/30/23 (Director, Elementary Ed)
Katrina Furness	Highland	Cert	Resignation effective 8/31/23 (teacher)
Carl Peterson	Mead HS	Cert	Resignation effective 8/31/23 (teacher)

VII. Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Woodward, at the request of President Denholm, referenced the following subject areas that will be agenda items at an upcoming Board Work Session/s:

- Policy 1430/Public Comment
- Safety & Security
- Student Representatives on the School Board
- Technology
- Capital Projects (short & long term)
- February 2024 Levy

Work Session attendance will include Travis Hanson (new superintendent).

Regarding technology, Assistant Superintendent Jared Hoadley will facilitate the first Technology Advisory meeting on May 9th. Seventy parents/community members applied to be a part of this twelve person committee.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

President

Secretary



**RESOLUTION 23-02
2023-2024 Modified Educational Program**

WHEREAS, as a result of Board Resolution 23-01, the Superintendent was directed to develop and recommend to the Board a Modified Educational Program to address and resolve the District's financial emergency and general budget uncertainty.

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has developed and recommends the attached Modified Educational Program for the 2023-2024 school year, representing reduced expenditures of approximately \$5 million, to address and resolve the District's financial emergency and general uncertainty. These reductions impact certificated and classified staff, as well other program costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors, that the Superintendent's recommended Modified Educational Program is and shall be hereby accepted and adopted by the Board of Directors.

Adopted this 8th day of May 2023.

Attest:

Secretary to the Board

**Mead School District No. 354
Board of Directors**

2023/2024 Modifications to Educational Program

Utilize Grant Dollars to offset District Level GF spending	\$804,308.00
District Office Administrator Reduction	\$230,000.00
Shift GF purchases to capital projects	\$500,000.00
District Level Classified Positions	\$471,000.00
8 FTE Secondary Level	\$800,000.00
2 FTE 4-5 Level	\$200,000.00
RA Lease Savings	\$50,000.00
JUUL Litigation Settlement Year 1	\$112,000.00
MEA Concession 1.5 Principal Days	\$577,440.00
Principal Group and District Admin 1 percent pay reduction	\$99,571.00
Cover Admin Subs in-house	\$50,000.00
FMP Lease/Utilities	\$116,000.00
2.0 Itinerant Custodial Staff	\$120,000.00
Elementary Virtual Program	\$200,000.00
35 percent reduction in chromebooks	\$560,000.00
	\$4,890,319.00

FEBRUARY 2024 LEVY RATE

May 8, 2023



RECOMMENDATION



IT IS OUR RECOMMENDATION TO ASK
VOTERS TO APPROVE THE MAXIMUM
LEVY AMOUNT OF \$2.50/\$1,000AV



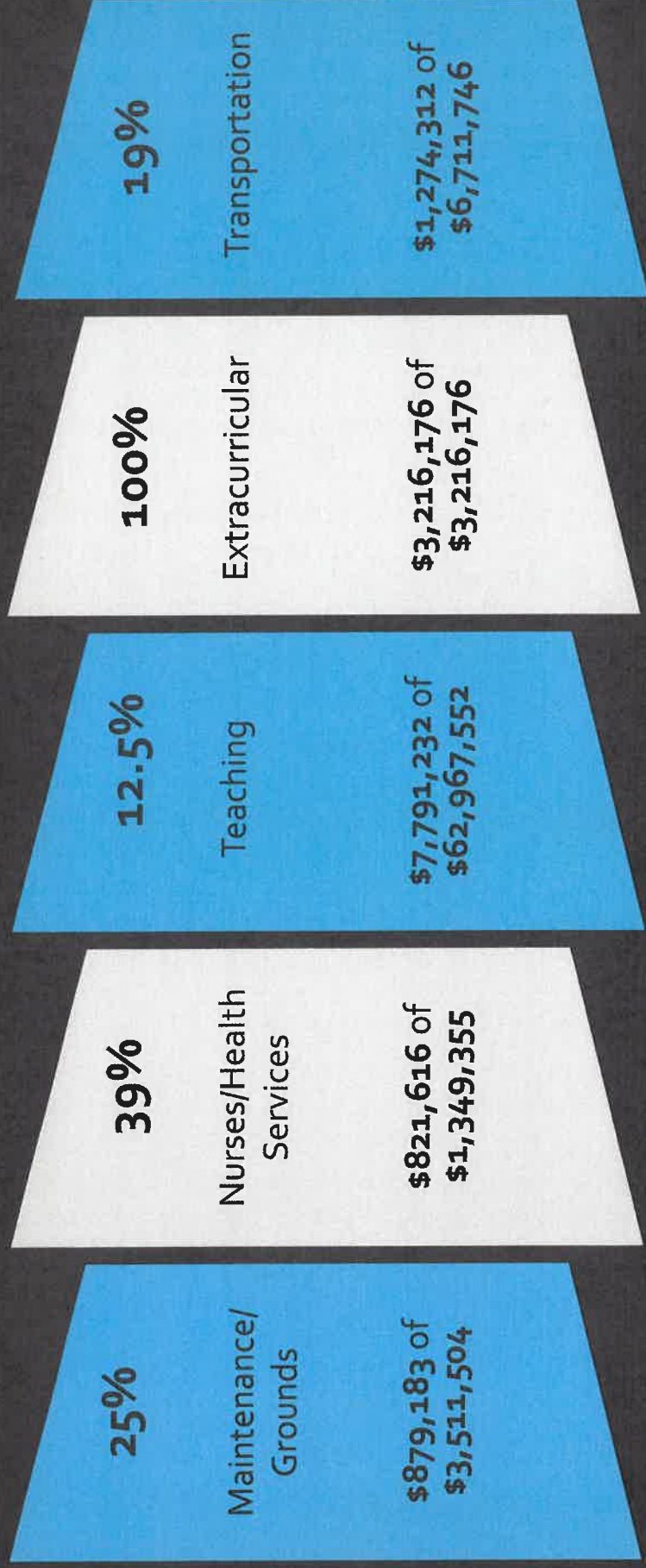
WHAT DOES THE LEVY FUND?




The Levy Funds what portion of these activities/programs?



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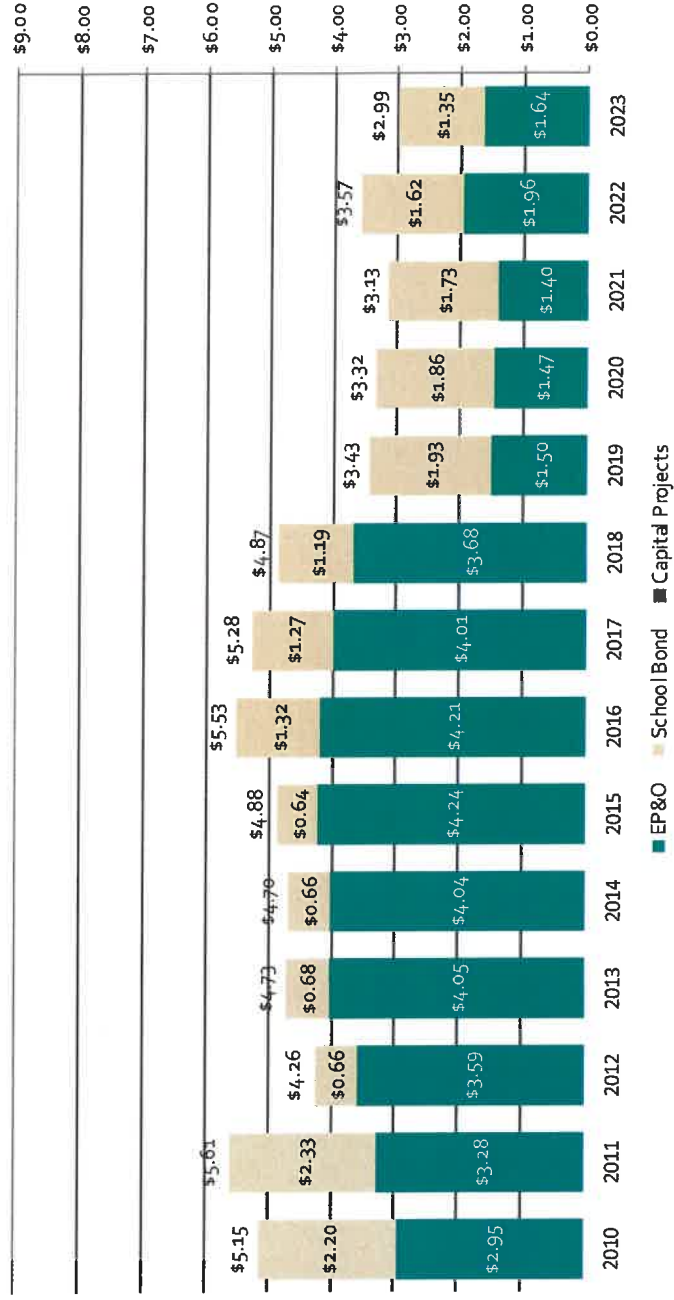


HISTORICAL TAX RATES



School Tax Rate History

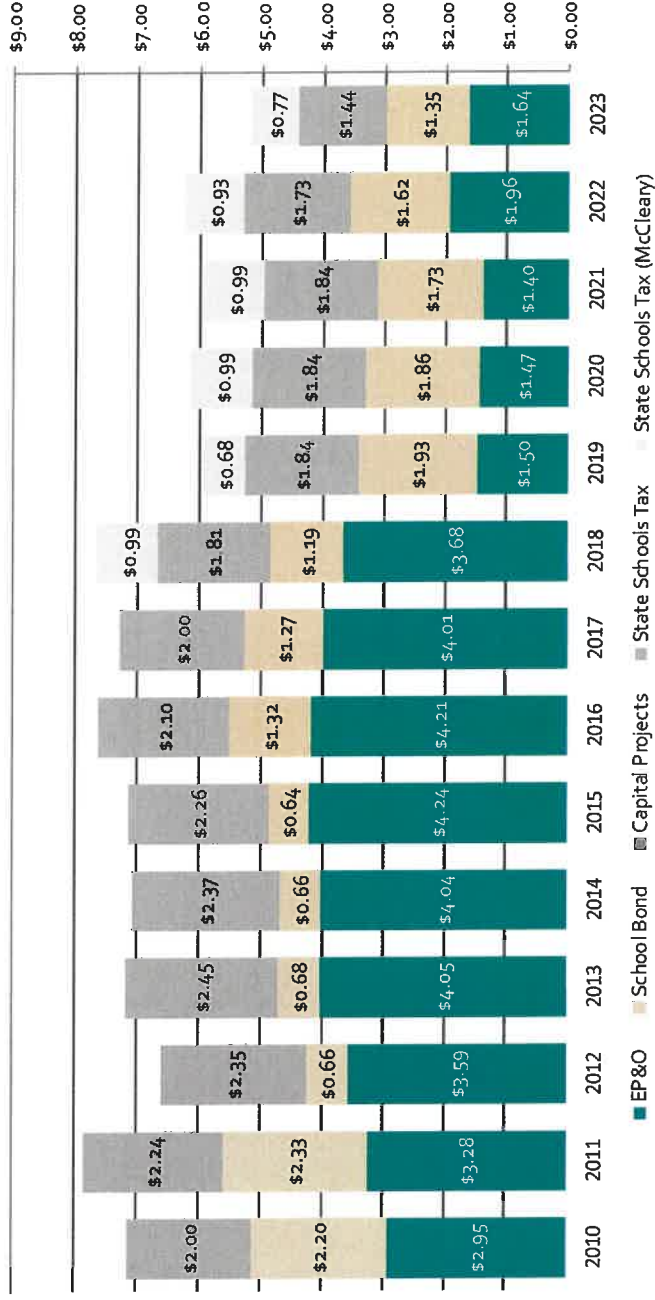
Mead School District
Tax Rates/\$1,000



Source: State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, County Assessor Annual Report.

School Tax Rate History

Mead School District
Tax Rates/\$1,000
(with State Schools Tax)



Source: State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, County Assessor Annual Report

Impact on 4 Homes

Home #1

- > 2018 Assessed Valuation: \$277,800
- > 2018 school tax rate per \$1,000: \$7.66
- > 2018 school tax amount: \$2,128.79
- > 2023 Assessed Valuation: \$624,760
- > 2023 school tax rate per \$1,000: \$5.20
- > 2023 school tax amount: \$3,251.62

AV Increase: 125%
Tax Rate Decrease: (32%)
Tax \$ Increase: 53%

Home #3

- > 2018 Assessed Valuation: \$344,490
- > 2018 school tax rate per \$1,000: \$7.66
- > 2018 school tax amount: \$2,639.84
- > 2023 Assessed Valuation: \$565,900
- > 2023 school tax rate per \$1,000: \$5.20
- > 2023 school tax amount: \$2,945.28

AV Increase: 64%
Tax Rate Decrease: (32%)
Tax \$ Increase: 11%

Home #2

- > 2018 Assessed Valuation: \$477,500
- > 2018 school tax rate per \$1,000: \$7.66
- > 2018 school tax amount: \$3,659.10
- > 2023 Assessed Valuation: \$836,900
- > 2023 school tax rate per \$1,000: \$5.20
- > 2023 school tax amount: \$4,355.73

AV Increase: 75%
Tax Rate Decrease: (32%)
Tax \$ Increase: 19%

Home #4

- > 2018 Assessed Valuation: \$208,400
- > 2018 school tax rate per \$1,000: \$7.66
- > 2018 school tax amount: \$1,596.99
- > 2023 Assessed Valuation: \$396,300
- > 2023 school tax rate per \$1,000: \$5.20
- > 2023 school tax amount: \$2,062.57

AV Increase: 90%
Tax Rate Decrease: (32%)
Tax \$ Increase: 29%

Amount per \$100,00 in Assessed Valuation

	EP&O	Bond	Total	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$600,000
Mead 2023	\$163	\$136	\$299	\$598	\$1,196	\$1,794
Mead \$2.50	\$250	\$113	\$363	\$726	\$1,452	\$2,178
Mead \$2.25	\$225	\$113	\$338	\$676	\$1,352	\$2,028
Mead \$2.00	\$200	\$113	\$313	\$626	\$1,252	\$1,878
Mead \$1.63	\$163	\$113	\$276	\$552	\$1,104	\$1,656

Amount per \$100,00 in Assessed Valuation

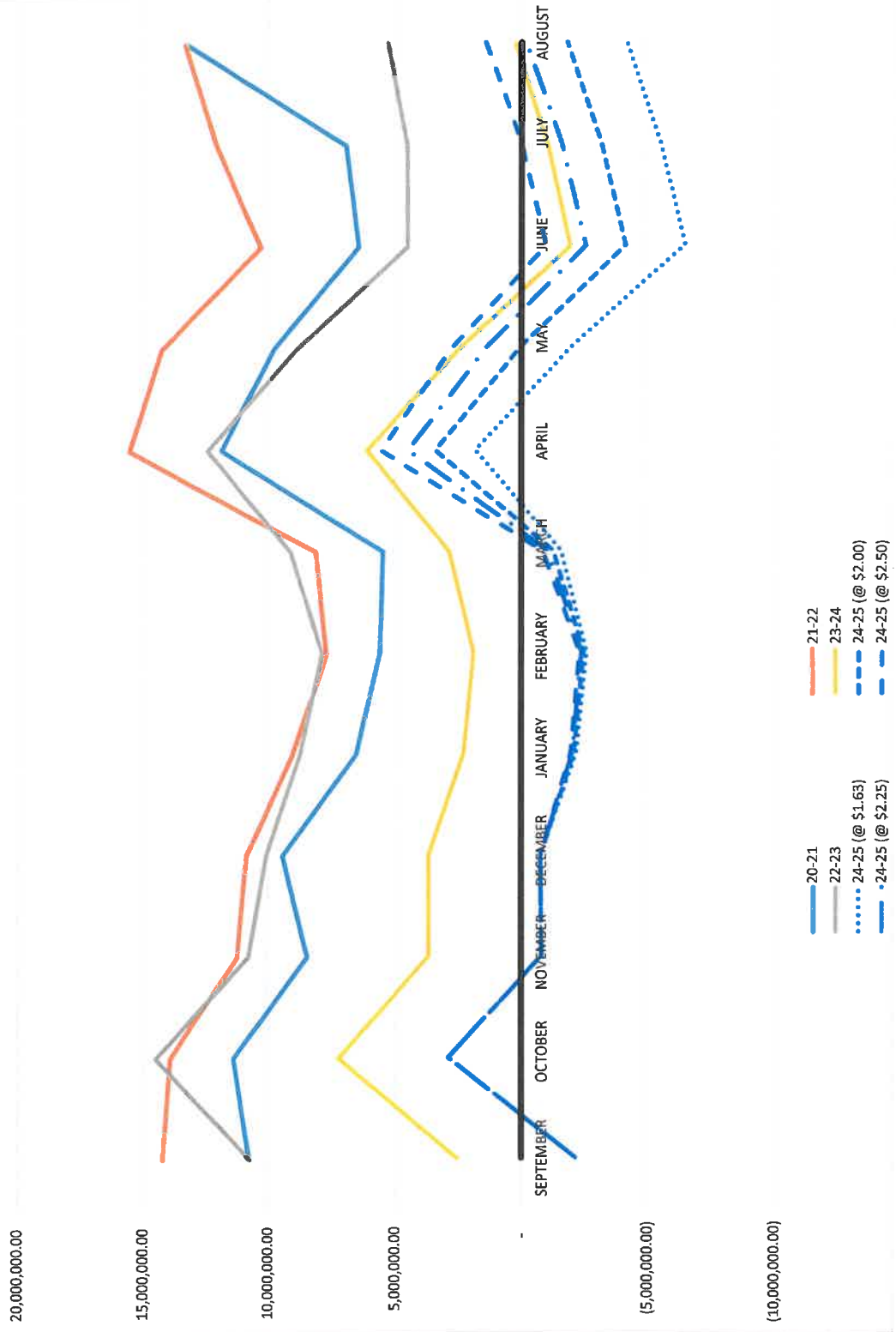
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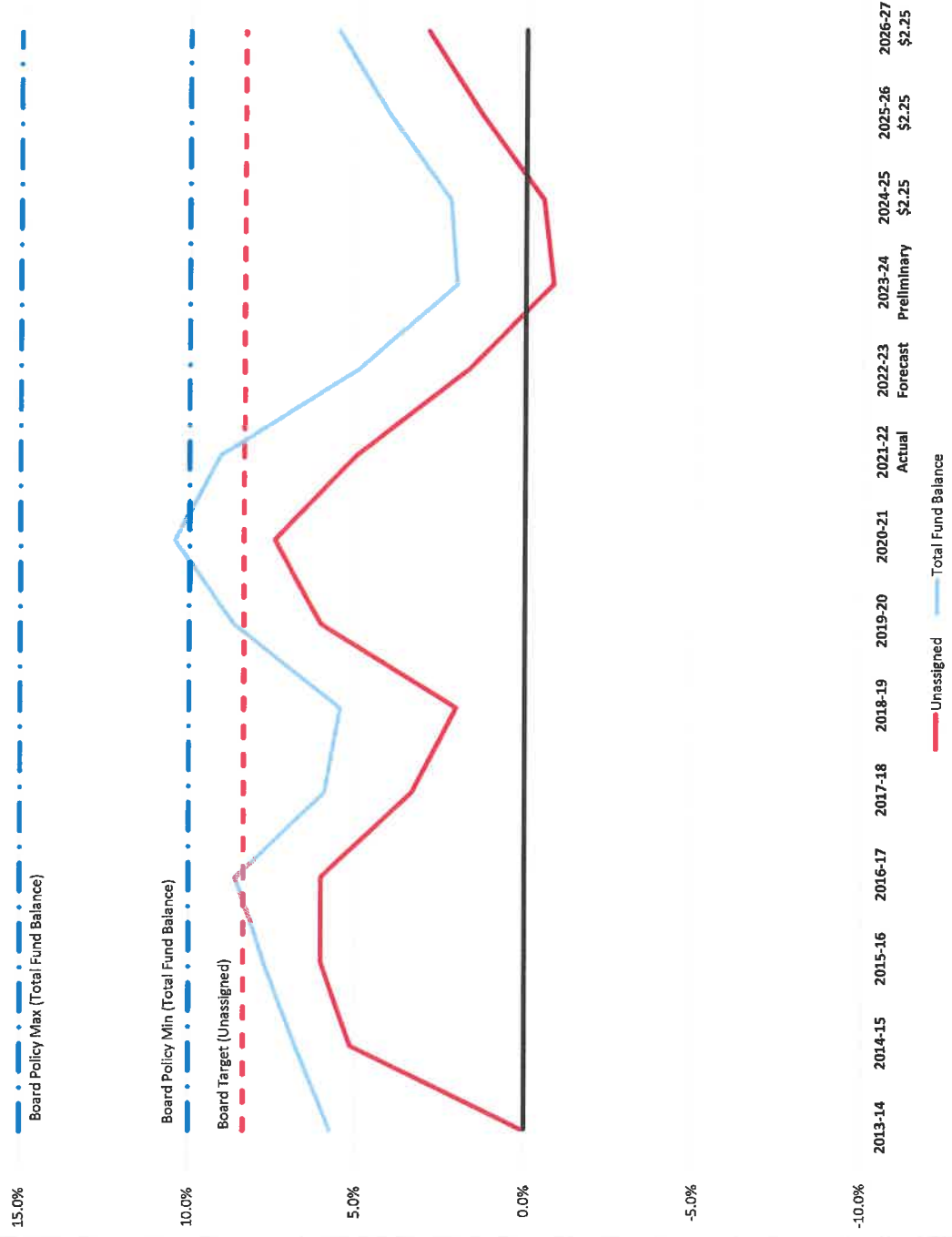
WHAT IS OUR CURRENT
FINANCIAL POSITION?



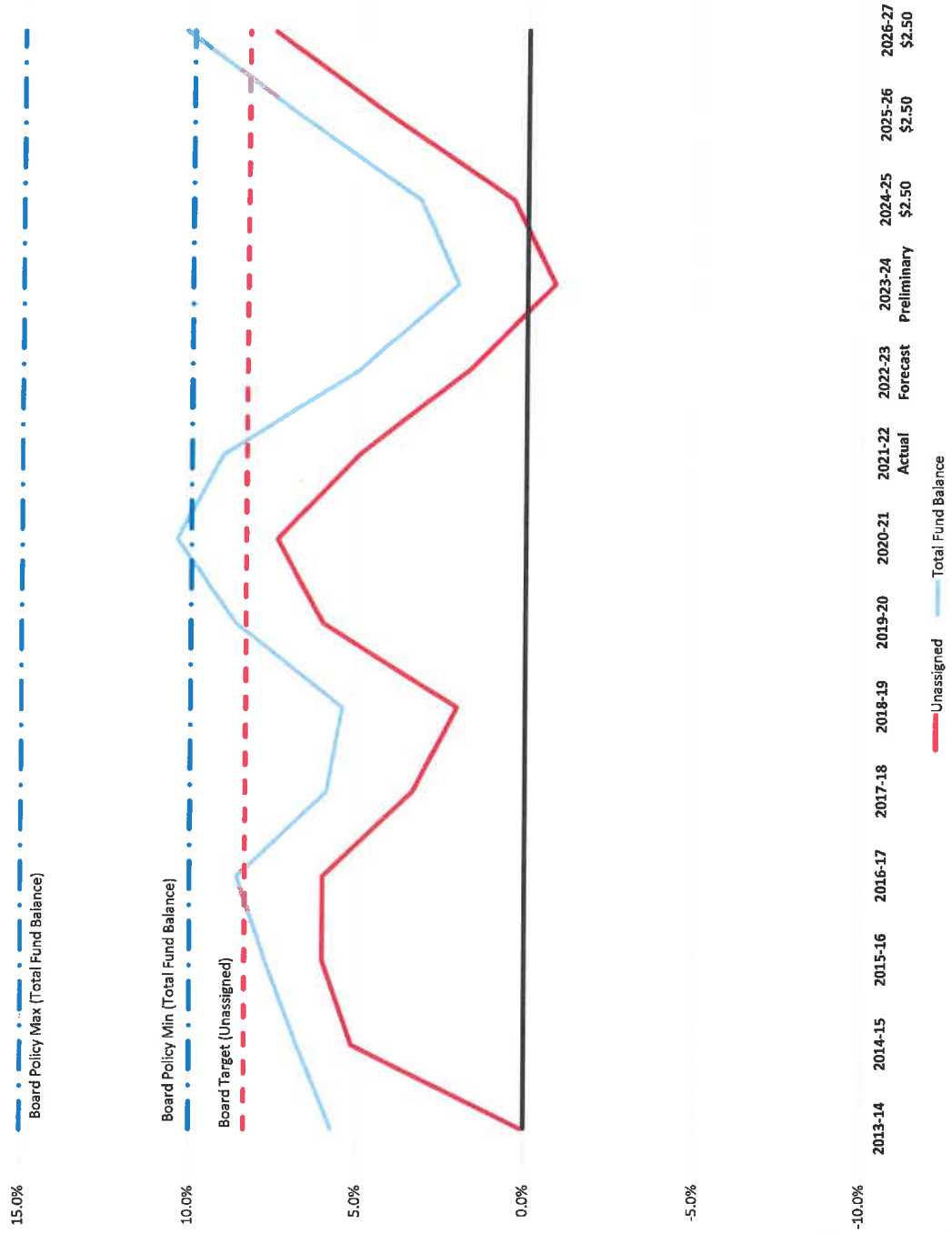
Cashflow Projections through 2024-25



Actual & Projected Fund Balance at \$2.25



Actual & Projected Fund Balance at \$2.50



Year	Unassigned	Total Fund Balance
2013-14	0.0	0.0
2014-15	4.0	0.0
2015-16	4.0	0.0
2016-17	4.0	0.0
2017-18	4.5	0.0
2018-19	4.5	0.0
2019-20	4.5	0.0
2020-21	4.5	0.0
2021-22 Actual	4.5	0.0
2022-23 Forecast	4.5	0.0
2023-24 Preliminary	4.5	0.0
2024-25	4.5	0.0
2025-26	4.5	0.0
2026-27	4.5	0.0

Budgetary Assumptions

- > Assessed Valuation
- > Legislative Decisions
- > Regionalization
- > LEA Calculation
- > State Levy

- > Contractual Obligations
- > Enrollment
- > Staffing
- > Cashflow

- > Targeted Reductions
- > Local M&O Levy
- > Local Capital Levy

Controlled
Externally

Controlled
Internally



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