

Budget Committee Meeting

May 17, 2023

Welcome & Opening Remarks



Approve Minutes from May 8, 2023 Budget Committee Meeting



Review Written Public Comment

1. I would have submitted this Friday, but just learned that COSA positions have been eliminated and feel the need to speak out.

I am here today to advocate for our BH&W supports to be left intact. I am a school counselor in our district, and as such am tasked with providing a comprehensive school counseling program for the more than 760 students I serve alongside my co-counselor. Next year, with projections at just over 700, the district will remove 1 of the 2 counseling positions at our building. One counselor to provide a comprehensive school counseling program to more than 700 students, despite ASCA's recommendation of a caseload of 1:250. This is unconscionable. A caseload that high is inappropriate and unsustainable, and I will absolutely need to rely on my BH&W colleagues and COSA support to meet students' needs. Yet, I have just learned that my COSA has been cut.

This month is National Mental Health Awareness Month. Concerns about children's mental health has been an ongoing national conversation, one exacerbated by a pandemic that has yet to end, extreme gun violence in our schools and public spaces, the trauma of violence against Black and brown bodies, and inadequate community mental health resources to attend to the significant increase in childhood anxiety. Students struggle to navigate conflict, as they've watched and listened to out ill-modeled national political and ideological discourse.

Our district was on the path of increasing protective factors for our students-harnessing what we have control of, just as we teach our students to do, by providing a team of people trained to listen, support, and guide students/families, and work toward ensuring that every student feels they belong in these spaces. Drastically reducing and eliminating those protective factors is a grave mistake that will undoubtedly cause harm to those we support. Not only will it stall progress, but could unravel the work we have done. I urge you to commit to our students' mental health and emotional well-being by keeping the allocations for BH&W team members intact. Now is not the time to reduce or eliminate necessary, life-saving supports.

The reduction in a counselor is due to enrollment decline and follows the formula for all elementaries stated in the Staffing Allocation Methodology (SAM). The COSA (Counselor on Special Assignment) referenced above is due to central office reductions and the duties will be reassigned.

Adjustments to the Proposed Budget



Budget Committee Final Comments



Approval of the 2023-24 Budget & Tax Levies

I move that the Beaverton School District budget in the amount of one billion five hundred forty four million three hundred twenty one thousand seven hundred fifty seven dollars (\$1,544,321,757) for all funds for 2023-24 be approved, the permanent tax rate of four dollars point six nine three cents (\$4.6930) per \$1,000 of assessed value be assessed in support of the General Fund, a local option tax rate of \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value be assessed in support of the General Fund, and a tax of eighty two million three hundred ninety nine thousand seventy nine dollars (\$82,399,079) be approved for the service of bonded debt obligations of the School District.

Superintendent's Closing Comments

Budget documents are available at

<https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/about-us/annual-budget>



Adjourn Meeting

