

MINUTES

A meeting of the Springfield Public Schools (SPS) District No. 19 Budget Committee was held February 10, 2022 at the Administrative Building, 640 A Street, Springfield, OR.

ATTENDANCE

Budget Committee members in attendance were Todd Mann, Emilio Hernandez, Ken Kohl, Steve Irvin, Naomi Raven, John Svoboda. Jonathan Light, Kelly Mason, Nancy Cameron and Keina Wolf.

Others in attendance included District staff, students and community members including Superintendent Todd Hamilton, Brett Yancey, David Collins. Andrea Mitchell, Whitley Kinley and Jeff Michna.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Superintendent Hamilton opened the Budget Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m.,

2. LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

Superintendent Hamilton proceeded to introduce Representative John Lively and Senator Lee Beyer to update the committee on Legislative Revenue. Representative Lively stated the House was currently in a short session which would need to be adjourned by March 7, 2022. He added that it would be a complicated session with new members, election year, 8-9 amendments and the issues of homelessness, removing regulations and rules for small businesses and community safety. Furthermore, Representative Lively informed the group that lack of affordable housing and worker shortages are extreme and with a decrease in immigration and birth rate plus workers not returning to their jobs, this crisis would continue for years.

Senator Beyer commented that it would be a strange short session and most policies would not pass. However, the state has had unexpected revenues and the reserve is healthy. He indicated that he was concerned with a lack of affordable housing starts which would also be an ongoing problem.

When questioned about PERS Representative Lively and Senator Beyer responded there would be no changes and it was doing well. They noted that Baby Boomers are retiring and due to the pandemic many are retiring early.

Mr. Hernandez quieried as to the working conditions for farm workers, indicating they had seen no improvement. Representative Lively affirmed it was a huge problem and definitely something that was being considered.

3. ENROLLMENT

Mr. Yancey presented a slide report relating to enrollment projections which are drawn from:

- LCOG (Lane Council of Governments) Geo-coded residence information
- Birth rate
- Quarter 1 enrollment
- 5 Median cohort survival rate
- Housing need
- US census data
- Projections to be updated with new transfers

Mr. Yancey stated COVID-19 had hit elementary school enrollment the hardest with a decline while middle school enrollment had remained flat and high school had declined slightly. Chair Raven asked how the closures had affected incoming kindergarteners to which Mr. Yancey replied enrollment had dropped but a lower birth rate also affected that number. Home school and charter schools have also played a part in public school enrollments.

4. BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS for 2022-2023

Mr. Yancey submitted a slide presentation stating the budget was in its second year with 51% funded of which 85% is budgeted for staffing. In response to Mr. Svobota's question regarding any school mergers or closures, Mr. Yancey noted that there had been no discussion of either. Mr. Yancey added that homes being built in the Marcola Meadows Development could possibly add 300-400 new students. He further indicated that staffing shortages are critical with days of double digit absenteeism. Mr. Collins injected that some classified employees are moving into certified positions and prior to COVID-19 moms worked part time positions but are now staying home.

5. CURRICULUM UPDATE

Ms. McKinley also provided the group with a slide presentation addressing new curriculum selection. She indicated the selection process starts at the state, who adopts the standards, which are reviewed by (ODE) Oregon Department of Education and if approved are distributed to districts to review and adopt. Mr. Collins pointed out that there would be a significant range in curriculum costs over the variety of subjects. (i.e. \$3,000,000+ for a language program). Mr. Hernandez queried the diversity of the persons reviewing the curriculum and Ms. McKinley responded it would be the committee's intention to invite representatives from diverse families.

7:41 p.m., Mr. Hernandez was excused from attendance due to illness.

6. TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Mr. Michna informed the group the disbursement of technical devices to students:

- 1:1 IPADs kindergarden and first grades
- 1:1 Touch Chrome for second grade
- 1:1 Standard Chrome for third through twelve grade

He added that the district currently has 9400 devices in service including 347 Hotspots for SPS families which will expire 06/30/2022 and 250 devices for certified staff laptops, desktops for new staff and replacements for end-of-life devices. He posited that more than 50% of devices would need to be replaced in 2026 at a cost of \$2,000,000 and funds would be directed to the tech budget in

preparation of that occurrence. Ms. Raven asked if it would be possible to lease some devices; Mr. Michna responded it would be one of the possibilities. Mr. Michna additionally reported a technical fund starting balance of \$3,232,421 and an ending balance of \$2,857,309.

7. ESSER Information

Mr. Yancey updated the group on the status of ESSER grants and admitted that they had no predetermined plan but would consider investment spending:

- HVAC
- Curriculum
- Technology replenish
- Summer programs
- Targeted instructional materials
- Security
- Targeted temporary staff

8. BUDGET DOCUMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Yancey followed up the January discussion regarding the length of the Budget Document by explaining it could be simplified if that was what the committee would like. Ms. Cameron responded that she would prefer a simplified version provided a more detailed document would be online should she need to dig in deeper. Mr. Mann stated it would be helpful if the document summarized any changes especially since members were expected to review a 320 page document in a two-week period and added that during that review process he noted 18 errors. Mr. Svoboda queried if detail was necessary and if simplifying would reduce printing expenses. Mr. Yancey indicated that the document could be presented at three consecutive work sessions: handout, present and adopt. When Mr. Kohl questioned why such a complex document was needed Mr. Yancey said the staff had a goal of reaching a gold standard document to which they are close.

Future Meetings:

March 17, 2022 Work Session
May 5, 2022 Proposed Budget Presentation
May 12, 2022
May 19, 2022

ADJOURN MEETING – TODD HAMILTON

Superintendent Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.