



---

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

<b><u>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:</u></b>	<b><u>EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT:</u></b>
Tom Oliver, Board Chair Richard Borden Board Vice Chair Nichole Piland, Member William Barish, Budget Committee Member Roger Maurer, Alternate Budget Committee Member	Jennifer Meckley, Superintendent William Lewis, Business Director

The meeting minutes were recorded by Executive Secretary Jessica Woody.

### **1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Tom Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

### **2. SELECTION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Richard Borden motions to appoint William Barish as budget committee chair. Nichole Piland seconds the motion. All in favor with a unanimous vote, William Barish is appointed budget committee chair.

### **3. SELECTION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR**

Richard Borden motions to appoint Nichole Piland as budget committee vice chair. Tom Oliver seconds the motion. All in favor with a unanimous vote, Nichole Piland is appointed budget committee vice chair.

It is stated that current budget committee member Ken Mulkey will be stepping down from his budget committee membership. William recommends that Roger Maurer, alternate member, be appointed as an official member of the budget committee in his place. Tom Oliver motions and Nichole Piland seconds the motion. All in favor with a unanimous vote Roger is appointed as an official budget committee member.

### **4. BUDGET MESSAGE**

Jennifer Meckley reads the budget message to the members.

William Lewis speaks to the board explaining the ESSR fund spending requirements and what the district has the capability to do with those. He also explains that many of the funds that the district has access to, are very restricted and formula driven, except for the general fund. He also refers to the proposed budget and explains each section to the members. He also explains the transfers that take place out of the general fund and the reasoning behind it.

Mr. Lewis refers to the district's 3 core goals, being, improved student achievement for all grade levels, all students reading at grade level by the end of grade three, and students entering LHS as freshman will graduate on time.

He also references the construction site at Kees St. which has been an incredible opportunity for the students, and the district would like to continue to grow this program eventually building multiple houses per year.

William Lewis lastly states that the committee may note any questions and bring those back to the next budget meeting.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**


William Lewis states that any questions from the members can be sent directly to him and he will share all questions and answers with the group. It is agreed by the group that no further discussion is needed.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Tom motions to adjourn and Richard seconds the motion. All in favor, the meeting is adjourned at 6:39 PM.



William Barish, Budget Chair



Jennifer Meckley, Superintendent



Pursuing Excellence

**LEBANON**

Community Schools

# LEBANON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #9

Budget Committee Meeting

May 18, 2023

Jennifer Meckley, Superintendent

Will Lewis, Business Director

# LCSD District Goals

**Improved student achievement for all grade levels.**

**All students reading at grade level by the end of grade three.**

**Students entering LHS as Freshman will graduate on time.**

# Budget Document Review

- Restricted vs Unrestricted Funds
  - Restricted funds can only be used for a stated purpose. They are limited and specific for the purpose.
  - Unrestricted funds can be used for any purpose that the organization sees fit.
  - The donor (government, institution, or individual) makes the decision if the funds are restricted or unrestricted.

# Budget Document Review

Questions/Clarifications/Requests





May 18, 2023

Dear Lebanon Community School District Community,

The 2022-2023 school year has been a welcome return to pre-pandemic routines for our students, families, and staff. The last few years have required constant changes and adjustments to our operations and practices, and while we are relieved to regain normalcy, we also face familiar challenges that are now much larger in scope—primarily students struggling academically or with their social, emotional, or mental health. Further, like districts across the state, LCSD saw a decrease of enrollment during the pandemic that we have not recouped.

Our schools have benefited from one-time funds (ESSER) from the federal and state governments to support students' amplified needs during the pandemic. We spent those monies carefully, with our district goals to guide us. During the pandemic, LCSD strengthened our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, ensuring that the whole scope of students' needs were served; we ensured that every student had access to necessary technology and software so they could access their learning; we improved our refrigeration systems, allowing us to continue serving free meals to children ages 1-18 throughout our community; and we hired new staff members to teach, monitor, assess, counsel, and care for our students. Since the ESSER funds were temporary, some have phased out, with the remaining required to be spent by September 2024.

Now, disappointingly, the Oregon Legislature, which has consistently underfunded schools for decades, is about to issue what will be an inadequate \$9.9 billion appropriation for the 2023-2025 biennium. This funding will not meet the rising needs within our school community nor allow us to maintain our current levels of service. Even if the state were to issue the recommended \$10.3 billion budget, LCSD would be facing a deficit. That news, combined with the ESSER fiscal cliff a year away, led to this budget, which reflects careful planning for difficult, immediate operational changes so that the impacts are spread over two years' time.

Our budget proposal for 2023-2025 adheres to Board policies and is built upon the following assumptions and projections:

- Enrollment of 4,040 including charter (a decrease of 15 from 22-23)
- 2023-24 state and local funding for LCSD of \$48,131,142 based on 9.9 Billion, \$49,231,142 based on \$10.1 billion, and \$50,331,142 based on \$10.3 billion
- Unencumbered Elementary and Secondary Relief (ESSER) funds estimated at \$2.8 million
- Student Success Act in the amount of \$3,119,035 (funds academic achievement, especially for focal groups, social-emotional learning, and mental health)
- High School Success Act of approximately \$1,134,678 (funds CTE courses, dropout prevention, etc.)
- 2022-23 ending fund balance estimated at \$5,400,000.
- Decreasing 20 FTE compared to 22-23 budget



- Decreasing textbook fund for K-5 science by \$200,000
- Reducing central department budgets by \$162,600
- Decreasing district travel for professional development by \$80,000

A tricky part about offering a budget overview like this one is the fluid nature of a budget. Just as with budgets we maintain at home, we make prudent, sometimes difficult decisions based on the information and resources we have, and we may then find ourselves with unexpected costs—or with opportunities that make long-term financial sense. Even as we have made reductions to this budget, we have also made some additions to the general fund. For example, we added \$167,000 for a federal COPS Grant to make necessary safety and security improvements throughout our schools; should we be awarded the grant, that amount will serve as our district’s matching contribution. We transferred \$200,000 from the general fund for a required debt service payment covering previous energy efficiency upgrades. Other costs from ESSER and state pandemic relief funds added to the general fund include, the modular CTE classroom at Seven Oak, Summer School credit recover and costs for Zoom and Canvas, two platforms we continue to use for instruction and collaboration.

Whether our schools face a financial shortfall, as they do now, or a windfall, our priorities remain the same. We safeguard our instructional core, assuring that our students use quality curriculum and are taught by caring educators using best practices; we supplement the core for students of all skill levels, whether they need remediation or acceleration. We care for students’ safety and holistic health and development, and we have the systems (MTSS) and tools (e.g., Character Strong, DESSA) to identify and support their needs in those areas. We do the work to advance equity, evaluating our systems with a critical lens for opportunity gaps, in hopes that each student feels seen and heard and graduates into the world with confidence and agency. And we strive to more fully engage our community, sharing information on improved platforms, inviting their presence at school events, and encouraging their input and dialogue on issues impacting their kids.

I thank our School Board and Budget Committee for their dedication to fiscal responsibility and for their time in preparing and reviewing the proposed 2023-2024 budget. I thank our school community for their partnership and for trusting us with their children. And primarily, I thank the staff at Lebanon Community Schools for the work they do and the myriad ways they positively impact the lives of students. After a few years of uncertainty, we are now facing more of it, but I am more resolute than ever about our responsibility: we will continue to move onward and upward, putting students first.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Meckley  
Superintendent