

Budget Committee Meeting (Tuesday, December 12, 2023)

Generated by Minnie Kamarata on Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM

1. Meeting Agenda

1.1 Call to Order

Dr. Monroe, Superintendent, called the Budget Committee Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Committee members present were: Bob Young, Sue Matteson, Julie Haut, Ashley Brune, Devon Leuzinger, Kay Hamrick, Ericka Daniel, Jennifer Crandal, Connie Crowley, Rob Reinhard, Crystal Mosher, Holly Murray, America Yurgayev, Stephanie McCorkle, Sara Schaefer, Minnie Kamarata, Beth Strickler, Dr. Monroe, and Natasha Camp.

1.2 Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Monroe, Superintendent, welcomed all the budget committee members, mentioned this meeting is a public meeting governed by Open Meeting Law where the public is welcomed to attend. Governing Board President Michael Todd and Board Member Bryan Parks sitting in the audience were also welcomed. Agendas will be posted publicly along with the meeting minutes taken and made public. Everyone introduced themselves briefly.

1.3 Purpose

To provide input and feedback from information received from solicited stakeholders to consider the best interests of the entire District, keeping children first and foremost and eventually take budget recommendations back to our Governing Board.

1.4 Committee Schedule

An interest survey will be sent out to be shared with stakeholders. After the holidays we'll review the 5-year budget plan. The Budget Committee and Members will meet on the following dates: Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. At the February 6th meeting, we'll prioritize all feedback given measuring what is of the most importance. Targeted date right now on February 12 will include a presentation to share with the Board. The Board will also be able identify some of their priorities.

1.5 Overview Presentation

Beth Strickler, Executive Director of Business Services, presented the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Budget, which is a significant portion of our budget. It's the largest grouping of revenues and expenditures within the district's annual budget. Primary components: revenue which include local taxes and state funding; expenses which include salaries and benefits (which is approximately 80% of the M&O budget), purchased services, supplies and materials. The M&O budget limit is based on a number of formulas which are heavily dependent upon the ADM. The district will get funded this year depending on the ADM from this year, therefore, it's important to keep our students so we can continue to keep the budget going. ADM is the average enrollment of students within the first one hundred school days of school minus

withdraws. 2022-2023 ADM was 4,874. 2023-2024 40th day ADM was 4,868. Anticipated growth is 1.6% (78 ADM). Anticipated for 2024-2025 ADM is 4,952 (4,874+78). Expected new revenues are \$1,671,407. Last year we started out with a little over \$2M dollars. Julie Haut asked if that 85% is consistent with other districts and has that 85% been consistent for the last five years in this district? Beth Strickler mentioned that benefits have gone up for everyone. Typically they range from 86-92%. Ours is right around 85% give or take. Julie Haut asked what's the range for our peer districts? Dr. Monroe mentioned the information being found on the Auditor General website and/or reports helps us see that a bit. Beth mentioned having the anticipated budget capacity the next time we meet, probably looking at \$5-600,000. Last year past budget interests (funded) on top of the 2%, Dr. Shough or Bryan Parks added an additional 1% for salaries, increase in Special Education stipends and an increase in guest teacher rate of pay (however because of the shortened week no increase was shown), an additional 1% salary increase (in addition to 2%), top 50% of teachers added compensation to equal 6% increase, athletic restoration & AD's for non-AP schools, Director of Student Services, Business Services Specialist (accountant), preschool coordinator, additional transportation staff, increase pay for Reading Interventionists, increase pay for Instructional Coaches, Gifted/EL/Reading Endorsements, Liberty PE (from 0 to .5) and Music teacher (from .3 to .5), AD stipends added for schools with AP, CST/Gifted/EL/504 Site Lead Stipend. It was mentioned that the Director of Student Services was mentioned but was not approved. Natasha Camp mentioned the gifted, reading and EL endorsement was only received if the teachers were providing services because it was a retention/recruitment strategy. Beth Strickler mentioned these increases amounted to approximately \$700,000. Dr. Monroe mentioned that the Reading Interventionists were funded through ESSER funding during COVID. Julie Haut asked what was our ESSER funding that we received that we are losing, what is the amount? Beth mentioned three buckets, ESSER 1, 2 & 3 with 3 expiring next September. Crystal mentioned it being about \$3.8. Dr. Monroe mentioned double checking that amount of \$3.8 and providing it to the committee. Julie Haut mentioned that Board Member Bryan Parks mentioned that there is a money carry-forward account. How much is in that account? Beth Strickler mentioned getting an additional \$150K for the carry-forward account. Dr. Monroe mentioned bringing any balance. Julie Haut mentioned an extra payroll account? Beth mentioned there is no extra payroll account. Sara Schaefer questioned the money that was funded for the position of the Director of Student Services, do we get that money back or is it reallocated? Money will be reallocated. Past budget interests from last year included(unfunded) support liaison, lunch duty cafeteria supervision, BHES Reading Interventionists (from 1.5 to 2.0 FTE), ELL Interventionist/Teacher, BHES Math Interventionist, Math Coaches, Math Coach stipend, Pay step increases (from 15 years to 20 years). Unfunded was \$1.1M. Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Julie Haut asked with this budget would we also be considering maintenance that has been deferred or physical updates that need to occur to the schools, is that part of this process? Beth Strickler mentioned those expenses are considered more capital-related and not M & O. However, a maintenance worker would be funded, for example, because it's funded through M&O. Another question posed, what will our Title 1 budgets look like and if we have any positions that will no longer be funded out of Title 1 for next year? We do not have those budgets yet. Dr. Monroe explained different budgets: Title 1, M&O, and capital. Education funding is very complex in how and where you can use funding. As budget interests are prioritized there is always something not

prioritized as part of the process. Julie Haut asked if there is a list available to us of anticipated grant funds that we will have available to us? Do we know what we will be applying for? Crystal Mosher mentioned our grants are one year. A lot of our title grants remain the same and funds can fluctuate somewhat. Holly Murray and Sara Schaefer raised a concern about qualifying for Title 1 on behalf of their schools. Julie Haut questioned how the top 50% of teachers were determined? Jason Nuttall had determined that in the past and it was determined based on salary. Julie Haut brought up a topic of, thinking of adjusting our teaching model in terms of what we do with K-3 students and put all our efforts in having enough reading specialists at each school site to make sure that every single child is at grade level or beyond. Therefore, making them successful for their grades in 4-8. Connie Crowley mentioned fully supporting this. Julie Haut also mentioned making sure to hire the correct people for these teaching positions.

1.6 Survey

A Google interest form link titled "Liberty Elementary School District #25 Budget Interest Form" will be sent out via email to all Budget Committee Members. Solicit ideas from all stakeholders. Deadline to complete will be by January 10th. Next meeting we do a 5-year budget plan, confirm anticipated budget capacity, and review, refine and prioritize budget interest. The meeting after that we will finalize and prioritize and get ready to present it to our Board. Natasha Camp mentioned ideas for interests. A discussion was had in regards to submitting all information and knowing how many people have similar interests. It was also mentioned that it is critically important in surveying all parents and community members.

1.7 Adjournment of Meeting

Dr. Monroe, Superintendent, thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the Budget Committee meeting at around 5:38 p.m.