

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Budget Committee was held on January 5, 2023.

I. WELCOME

Chair Raven called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance

Committee Members attending the meeting included Naomi Raven, Ken Kohl, Jonathan Light, Nancy Cameron, John Svoboda and Keina Wolf.

Viewing Virtually: Emilio Hernandez, Steve Irwin, Todd Mann and Kelly Mason.

District staff and community members identified included Brett Yancey, Todd Hamilton, Dave Collins, Dustin Reece, Don Lamb and Andrea Wallace.

II. 2023-24 Budget Process Overview and Discussion

Mr. Yancey began by stating that having a common understanding of the budget process was necessary.

Having a common understanding came down to four key points:

- The relationship of the Budget Committee to the budget document:
The Budget Committee is an important part of a District's decision-making processes in setting local budget priorities and providing a forum for the community to discuss and give input.
- The internal process:
The steps to research and create a budget takes five months. The official start to the budget session is when the committee is given the proposed budget and officially the Superintendent presents the required budget message. Following the message, formal proceedings for considering whether or not the Board wishes to approve a presented budget or if any modifications will be considered.
- The purpose of the Budget Committee:
To receive training on the budget process, to receive a calendar, to receive information that informs the development of the budget, to create a forum for community input and to receive information and get orientation on the District, various programs, staffing information, activities and services.
- Transparency:
A real understanding for transparency and a desire for questions and clarifications to come back to the district with the point of supporting Board and District goals.

III. 2022-23 Enrollment Update

- **Impact of Revenue and Future Funding**

Mr. Yancey reminded the Board that the budget was based on a projected enrollment. Finalized enrollment was on September 30th.

According to projection versus actual enrollment, the Springfield School District (SPSD) actually had 253 fewer students. K5 projection versus actual enrollment had 125 students above

projection. Middle schools and high schools were fairly even. Coming out of COVID, SPSD-Online had 225 fewer students, due mainly to those students returning to in-person schools. Other online was down 94 and Alternative Education was down 10. Comparing last year to the current year's actual enrollment, the gap was narrowing.

Mr. Light asked if they knew where the online students went. Mr. Yancey replied "yes", and that they would get that information to them, but did not have it with them that evening.

Mr. Kohl wondered if enrollment continued to decline, would they know why and where those students were going? Mr. Yancey answered that SPSD was down 1%, but was much better than many of the others in the state. It was unknown as to how many students enrolled in private school versus how many had moved out of state. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) was trying to gather information on that. Mr. Kohl asked if they thought there was any reason why in that middle school range, students were dropping out or moving out of state? Mr. Collins replied that they were partnering with staff who were contacting those families to determine the reason. Mr. Collins stated that transitions were seen at various times, due to housing issues, employment changes and other things.

The impact of an overall decline in state enrollment resulted in an increase in SPS State School funding, from \$83 million to \$84 million. The state would still plan to spend the same amount of allocation, however they would then distribute it differently based on enrollment(s) per district.

Mr. Kohl asked how SPSD in regards to the additional resources, were doing in student testing and graduation rates? Mr. Collins answered that the final report on that would soon be available. He believed that good choices had been made within the District and that the data would support that.

Ms. Cameron asked if the total state population of kids had decreased? Mr. Yancey replied that overall, the population of the State of Oregon had increased, but it was not within family sizes. Mr. Hamilton stated that birth rates in Lane County had been down over the past few years.

IV. 2022-23 Budget Summary & ESSER Update

SPS anticipates an increase to approximately \$30.5 million of current year and prior year taxes. Additional, increased contributions were going towards the structural materials fund and the technology fund. Those expenditures with ESSER were being offset by continued money contributions into those funds. Ongoing contributions will continue to build up revenue in those funds, before ESSER funds expire. ESSER I is 100% extended. ESSER II is approximately 55% extended. ESSER III is approximately 11.2%. With a decline in enrollment there was a natural decline in staffing levels. Thurston High School will have the most difficult and comprehensive hvac project with 100% construction documents to be submitted to the city by the beginning of April.

Ms. Cameron asked how they were doing with staff, faculty and clerical, regarding staff retention and stipends? Mr. Reece noted that with a decline in enrollment there would be a decline in staff as well. Due to COVID there had been an increase in staff departures, but that had greatly improved over the past few months. The Classified staff tended to be more transient and more difficult to retain. Mr. Reece stated they had recently engaged with a national organization called Upbeat to conduct a staff survey. The data from the survey would aid in retention efforts, especially to help serve some in underserved populations of students. House Bill 4030 provided funds to use for target recruitment and retention efforts. Mr. Reece stated that transportation positions were very difficult to fill. The average age of SPS District's current drivers was 56.7 years old. Sixteen of those employees were over the age of 65. There were eleven vacancies currently and they were expecting four more by the end of the year. Those positions require a

rigorous training certification process and few people are interested in the short schedules of those positions.

Ms. Wolf asked how they were currently handling those vacancies? Mr. Reece answered that they had most of their mechanics driving the routes and schools continually had pulled from one another.

V. Financial Statement and 2022-2023 Projections

Mr. Yancey provided a snapshot on current year finances. General fund revenues, continue strong collections and is anticipated to exceed adopted budget by approximately 1%. Other local sources were up about \$235,000 due to their investments making more than expected. The Local Government Investment Pool was up 3.3%. Charter School funds were down due to enrollment. The State School fund was up about \$970,000. The Common School fund was up \$200,000. In total they had about \$1.8 million in additional revenue projected, than the adopted budget. Expenditures were approximately \$12.5 million under-budget. Expenses were \$4 million under budget in salaries and benefits. The District is anticipating spending down reserves from \$19.6 million to \$14.3 million.

Superintendent Todd Hamilton announced:

- The Legislature would convene on Tuesday January 17, 2023.
- The Governor's Budget was expected to be released during the first week of February.

VI. Resource Information and Future Meetings

- Budget Committee Handbook
- Budget Document Composition & Detail
- Budget Calendar 2023-2024
- Questions/Clarification/Request

Mr. Kohl requested to hear more on what was and was not working regarding staffing priorities, use of the budget, allocation changes and an explanation of how they had anticipated and arrived at their decisions.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Chair Raven adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan)