

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Budget Committee was held on May 4, 2023.

1. WELCOME

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

Attendance

Board Members attending the meeting included Chair Naomi Raven, Co-Chair Todd Mann, Jonathan Light, Ken Kohl, Keina Wolf, Steve Irwin, Kelly Mason, John Svoboda and Nancy Cameron. Emilio Hernandez arrived after the meeting was called to order.

District staff and community members identified included Todd Hamilton, Jeff Michna, Brett Yancey, Joan Bolls, Brenda Holt, Melissa Stalder, Kim Donaghe, Jonathan Gault, José da Silva, and Mindy LeRoux.

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. ELECTION of OFFICERS:

a.) Chair of Committee

Motion:

John Svoboda moved, seconded by Jonathan Light to nominate Ken Kohl as Chair of the Committee.

Vote: 9:0

The motion passed unanimously.

b.) Vice-Chair of Committee

Motion:

Jonathan Light moved, seconded by Nancy Cameron to nominate John Svoboda as Vice-Chair of Committee.

Vote: 9:0

The motion passed unanimously.

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4. 2023-2024 BUDGET MESSAGE

Superintendent Todd Hamilton read aloud the Springfield Public Schools’ (SPS) mission statement. He added that the proposed budget for 2023-2024 aligns with that mission. This followed by Superintendent Hamilton presenting the budget message.

- The Governor and the Oregon State Legislature recognized education as the most effective solution to the many challenges Oregonians face.
- A proposed K-12 State School Fund (SSF) allocation, combined with High School Success funds allowed them to sustain current service levels and make modest investments in student behavior support and staff recruitment.
- The Student Investment account was established to provide additional funding to support Students’ Success, particularly for historically underserved and marginalized populations.
- Over 1,500 people spoke and shared their collective hopes for utilizing these funds.
- ESSER funds allowed us to prioritize health and safety and address disruptions to teaching and learning resulting from the pandemic.
- The proposed budget will maintain existing programs and services, including adjustments to support staff and inflationary costs, address instructional materials, technology and maintenance needs, and strategically leverage Federal Relief funds to support programs in future years.
- The 2023-2024 projected ending fund balance was set at approximately 6.5%. The proposed budget represents proactive measures to stabilize the general fund and local relief funds.

5. BUDGET DOCUMENT OVERVIEW & PRESENTATION

a.) Guiding Assumptions

Mr. Yancey encouraged the Committee to consider the equity lens framework as they navigate the proposed budget and when considering the approval of a document.

Equity Lens Framework:

- Who are the marginalized groups that could be most impacted by insufficient resources?
- What are the potential impacts on these groups?
- What equity gaps currently exist for these groups?
- How might this proposed budget positively impact equity gaps?
- Are there any barriers to more equitable outcomes that can be mitigated?

b.). Document Overview

Conversations on navigating and presenting the budget process began in November of 2022 during an Ad-Hoc meeting. The proposed budget is based on a biannual funding level of \$10.1 billion.

- Three work sessions in January, February and March were held.
- The proposed budget was distributed electronically to committee members one week prior.
- The proposed budget was posted on the websites prior to community availability.

Superintendent’s Budget Message:	Page 6-9
District & Budget Overview Information:	Page 10-23
Economic & Enrollment Information:	Page 24-32
Department Summaries:	Page 34-55
General Fund:	Page 56-101
Special Revenue Funds:	Page 102-113

c.) 2023-2024 Revenue Assumptions

- The state is currently at \$9.9 billion, exactly that of the Governor’s recommended budget and is based on a 49/51 split for the biennium.
- The District’s proposed 2023-24 SSF Total Formula Revenue of \$119,771,318 is a projected increase of \$4.0 million or (3.49%) compared to 2022-23.
- 2023-24 = 49% of biennial funding. 2024-25 = 51% of biennial funding.
- Continued decline in student enrollment, SSF based on a higher of two years.
- All collective bargaining agreement provisions included (step advancement, 4% cost of living assumption (COLA), \$50/mo. increase the monthly health insurance cap.)
- 2022-23 staffing roll-over, adjusted for enrollment.
- Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA) begins September 2023.
- 15% increase in property /casualty/auto insurance premiums.
- 5% increase in utility costs.
- \$1 million contingency funds.
- \$1 million transfer from General Fund to Instructional Materials Fund.
- \$1 million transfer from General Fund to Technology Fund.
- 6.5% Unappropriated Ending Fund balance allocation.

d.) 2023-2024 Expenditure Assumptions

With the exception of collective bargaining, this is considered to be an Over-Budget.

- \$4.4 million increase in total expenses. The bulk in salaries and payroll due to the results of collective bargaining agreements.
- \$157,000 increase in insurance increase.
- \$400,000 increase in unappropriated Ending Fund balance.

e.) Summary of Proposed Adjustments

Increases:

- Collective bargaining & staff adjustments (net) \$3,956,664.
- Unappropriated Fund Balance (UEFB) established increased to 6.5%: \$379,944.
- 15% increase in insurance; \$163,825.
- Charter School (Valley Leadership) pass-thru; \$150,000.
- 5% increase in utilities; \$127,834.
- CTE supply allocation: \$125,000.

Decreases:

- VER Fund assessment: (\$400,000).
- Rent for A3 building no longer needed: (\$75,000).
- Debt service payment: (\$2,350).

Committee Member Requests:

- Family Resource Center Support: Resources in addition to staffing allocation.
 - \$1,500 per site for basic supplies (Title 1)
 - \$50,000 based on need (SIA Funds)
- CTE Supplies and Materials: \$125,000 additional allocation due to need and loss of fees collected.
- Beautification of facilities: Allocation within the Facilities Budget for design work, planning and potential implementation.
- Murals: Continued partnership with Lane Arts Council; identifying locations, interest and work with students.
- Improve open spaces for students: Allocation within the Facilities Budget.

Mr. Light asked how funds would be administered by the Family Center Coordinator. Mr. Yancey answered that the needs would vary depending on the school. Engagement with the community would be key. The allocation of resources would be a collaborative conversation between the building and the District and would be based on the need of the students and families of the particular school.

f.) Staffing Review

Slight decline in Certified Staffing, both in Other Funds and in the General Fund and is related to a decline in enrollment.

- Added staff to the Communications Department.
- Total staffing: same trend, increasing then stabilizes.
- The priorities of the Budget Committee were met in the proposed budget.

Mr. Light noticed that more staffing was covered through the Other Funds category and wondered if it was a general trend in education. He also asked if they were reducing class sizes.

Mr. Yancey replied that it was a direct correlation to the Student Investment Account, High School Success, which is supported through the Corporate Activity Tax. Mr. Yancey said that they were reducing class sizes and when entering comprehensive high school, it would depend on forecasting demand, but on the other side of that, they were continuing to expand the CTE offerings.

g.) Next Steps

- The proposed budget was based on \$10.1 billion. It is currently at \$9.9 billion. Additional resources are expected.
- Joint Ways & Means Committee awaiting economic forecast (5/17/2023) before any budgetary movement.
- Approve 2023-24 proposed budget (spending limit) as presented.
- Second Budget Committee meeting 5/11/2023.
- Subsequent meetings of the Budget Committee as needed.
- Legal requirements to adopt the 2023-24 budget by June 30, 2023 and certify tax levy by July 15, 2023.
- Continue to use the Equity Lens Framework.

6. BUDGET QUESTIONS and/or CLARIFICATIONS

Mr. Kohl asked if Mr. Yancey was aware of any pending legislation that would affect their budget. Mr. Yancey replied there was none. If they receive any additional funding and depending upon the amount, they would discuss compensation of staff, with only a 2% increase in allocation. There may be additional funding dedicated to K-12 toward universal support for early literacy.

Mr. Light wondered if there would be strings attached to the Early Literacy funding and would those funds be based on student population. Mr. Hamilton replied that it would not have strings attached, as in addition to, but would require a show of how the money would be used to support early literacy. Those funds would be held in a separate designated pot of funds and districts would apply for how they would be using those funds, but it would not be competitive.

Ms. Cameron inquired into the current status and costs of the Dual Language program.

Ms. McKinley answered that they were now K-9 at Springfield High, Guy Lee Elementary and Hamlin Middle School with one dual immersion classroom per grade. They were not looking at additional sites, instead they were trying to strengthen and expand the program into the remaining grades within those

schools. Mr. Yancey commented that from a budgetary standpoint, they would continue to adequately resource that based on what the needs of the program are for staffing and materials.

Mr. Svoboda asked what was being done to promote the CTE programs. Ms. LeRoux replied that they had expanded the number of programs available. With student input, they had added Film and Video, Culinary Health Science and Cosmetology. There will be 24 pathways tailored to the students' wants, beginning next year. Enrolling and completing their competencies in these courses will save students many thousands of dollars. Students are not placing as high a value on college, due to the substantial debt that they would gain.

Mr. Irwin wanted to know the thought process behind using a third party for employee insurance. Mr. Yancey replied that it was a coordination between all of the leaves. All those working together were already substantially using some third parties, which makes the work seamless in the service of the employees.

Mr. Hernandez commented that there must be a way to continue to monitor, not just Title 1, not just the language programs, but the process of every student. Mr. Hamilton stated that it goes back to the responsibility they have as stewards and leaders in their organization, to regularly ask those equity questions and be purposeful in their leadership until it is a standing point of conversation and has become systemic. Mr. Yancey added that they would continue to monitor for their continuous improvement process and the impacts upon the students.

Ms. Cameron inquired into the graduation rates. Mr. Yancey referred to the previous work session, stating that it has been substantial over time and moving in the right direction, in spite of the pandemic. They believe that the interventions put in place will only cause the rate to continue to increase.

Ms. Raven stated the numbers for the Regular Attenders, the English Language Arts, and Mathematics had been most concerning to her and she would love to compare those numbers with the pre-pandemic ones. Mr. Hamilton reminded everyone that those are the pandemic numbers. Those numbers are based on the statewide assessment and a significant number of students chose to opt out from those assessments during the pandemic. So those numbers did not reflect a statistically valid participation rate.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

No requests for public comment, either written or verbal were received.

8. APPROVAL of DOCUMENT

MOTION:

Keina Wolf moved, seconded by Steve Irwin to approve the 2023-24 Proposed Budget.

VOTE: 9:1

John Svoboda voted against approval of the Proposed Budget. The motion passed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kohl adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)