

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Springfield School District No. 19 Budget Committee was held on May 12, 2022.

1. WELCOME

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

Attendance

Board Members attending the meeting included Vice Chair Ken Kohl, Emilio Hernandez, Jonathan Light, Todd Mann, Steve Irvin, Nancy Cameron, and Chair Svoboda. Keina Wolf was absent.

District staff and community members identified included Superintendent Todd Hamilton, David Collins, Brett Yancey, Dustin Collins, and Judy Bowden. Kelly Mason and Naomi Raven were present through zoom.

Vice Chair Kohl suggested that moving forward, more detail and accuracy than used in the previous meeting was desired from LCOG recorders.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Director Light moved, seconded by Director Kohl to approve the May 5, 2022 minutes as presented. Vote: Passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

4. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Mr. Kohl expressed appreciation for the information around the CTE, Measure 98, and the full budget, however he was concerned that since the last biennium, a significant amount of the funds had not been utilized. He wondered what the district or staff could do moving forward, to take full advantage of those resources.

Brett Yancy stated that the funds as they came in, were made available to the staff. He did not believe the budget was wholly accurate due to not meeting in person during the pandemic and that funds spent this year and into the next, would exponentially increase.

Mr. Kohl stated that in the CTE area, there had been a divestment from state and federal. His concern was whether they were adequately funding all of their programs and wanted to keep the teachers out in front of the students, with manageable work weeks while not having to raise donations.

Mr. Yancy replied the funds were bouncing back this year, due to an increase of students. Teachers then submit applications for funding, based on the number of students. The application process is very tedious and long, he speculated that perhaps not all applications were submitted as they should have been.

Chair Svoboda expressed the ongoing concern for the psychological welfare of the students. He wanted to ensure that they were fully funded, enabling them to provide properly for the students. He requested

clarification of the budget, specifically: what was being spent, what amount, where it was being spent, and where it was showing in the budget.

Mr. Yancy explained that staff was supported through substantial medical and mental health coverage, as well as employee assistance.

Dave Collins explained that students received \$130 thousand from the Student Investment Account (SIA). This was specifically for staff positions. Middle schools each received for the following year, a Gateway Specialist, each elementary received a Behavioral Interventionist. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) fund allows them to partner with outside agencies across all grades. In addition, sixteen classified positions were added. An investment from the Strategic Investment Fund (SIA) provided five assistant principals to the schools. Behavioral Interventionists are trained and vetted through The University of Oregon. Human Resources is where limitations exist.

Dr. Hernandez questioned if the Behavior Interventionists were multi culturally and bilingually trained to work with the students.

Mr. Yancy clarified that while they hired for the positions, the University of Oregon helped with training those staff members. He noted, he would not presently be able to address the equity side of that.

Dr. Hernandez said that would need to be looked into further.

Mr. Collins pointed out on page 119 of The Board Packet, under Investment Goal number 1; the investment from SIA of \$1.87 million, explains where the funds were directed.

Dr. Megert...explained that School Psychologist was a broad skill set associated with evaluating students for special education. School Psychology and School Psychology were separate fields.

Chair Svoboda requested help to correctly read the document. He wished to know where those funds would be located in the budget document.

Mr. Yancy speculated that the funds had been rolled into the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IEEDA) Consolidated Budget, a \$3 million-dollar budget, located on page three.

Mr. Svoboda asked if any of those funds came from SIA.

Mr. Collins answered no.

Mr. Svoboda asked if they did not see the psychological crisis as a short-term crisis, needing to be funded immediately.

Mr. Collins replied, according to the experts in the room, they had provided to the best of their ability a budget that fit the needs of the district.

Mr. Svoboda stated, while he would not oppose the budget, it bothered him that a large amount of money would go to a new track while a mental health crisis was present in the classrooms.

Director Light inquired if they were on the right track or had seen a downward trend in behavioral incidents according to the School Wide Information System (SWIS) data or if it was too early to tell if enough had been spent to adequately fund the schools.

Mr. Collins replied it was too early to tell and difficult to correlate success with direct funds. He stated that having additional trained adults in the schools, available to the students was a success. With the return of sports and of other such activities, the mental health of students benefit from a return to a pre-pandemic life. Staff were continuing to gather information from several data sights including SWIS and would continue to monitor that data. He felt it was too early and that there were still some concerns due to a continued presence of the pandemic.

5. APPROVAL OF DOCUMENT

MOTION: Director Kohl moved, seconded by Director Cameron to approve the 2022-2023 Budget Resolution as presented. Vote: Passed unanimously.

Director Mann expressed interest in members participating in some continued improvement or self-evaluations. He noted the Consolidated Budget could be a very powerful tool the next time around. He wondered when was the best time to give input and have it taken into account during the budget process. He reached out to OSBA for clarification on the matter of best practices regarding the budget committee process and was told that no one knows. Mr. Mann felt that presented The Committee an opportunity to establish, at the suggestion of Director Hamilton, an Ad-Hoc group to discuss, improve, and be an exemplary district in gaining public consent and trust. He also noted that due to great changes it was time to review the Strategic Plan. Mr. Mann proposed that in the near future, they together discuss and work through to form some type of group.

Mr. Yancy noted that the difficulty was in the evaluation process. He said that evaluating was a dangerous area when staff are involved and finding a tool to measure self-assessment would be very difficult.

Mr. Mann agreed that a skilled facilitator, that The Board felt comfortable with, was needed.

Dr. Hernandez suggested skilled facilitators be aware of Oregon laws, as well as understanding how The Board operates.

Superintendent Hamilton concluded by saying that he would work with board leadership to develop what that would look like. He would take into consideration all that was discussed that evening, then follow up with The Board in the Fall of 2022, per Board member suggestions.

6. BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(As needed) May 19, 2022

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Chair Svoboda adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan)