

**ORR BUDGET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

**January 23, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.  
Hybrid**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** James Muse (in-person) and Matthew Monteiro (remote).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Michelle Smith

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations, Michael Devoll, Principal – ORR High School and Silas Coellner, Principal – ORR Junior High School (all in-person).

Meeting called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Mr. Muse.

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:**

Superintendent Nelson addressed the school committee members to provide an update on the current status of the proposed FY25 budget. First, the Governor’s budget has not yet been released but it is expected in the coming days. This is the next significant piece in the ORR budget process for Mr. Barber to fine tune the FY25 proposed budget numbers.

Next, Superintendent Nelson updated the school committee on one of main budget drivers, transportation. Initial expectations were an increase in 10-15% in transportation costs with a new contract, however in recent weeks, other districts also bidding have shared that costs are higher than anticipated. Therefore, Superintendent Nelson and Mr. Barber expect transportation costs to increase above 15%. Mr. Barber explained that only one vendor submitted a bid initially, so a new bid with our districts split up rather than consolidated into one contract was posted. This bid closes next Tuesday and Mr. Barber is hopeful more than one company will submit a bid.

Lastly, Superintendent Nelson explained that the district is still in the process of finalizing the feasibility study with vendor Leftfield, the company that won the bid.

Mr. Muse and Mr. Monteiro discussed possible energy options or audits to see if the district would be eligible for any additional funding or grants. Superintendent Nelson explained that if any options such as these become available the district does always consider them.

Mr. Muse and Mr. Monteiro agreed with the next steps being creating a level service budget after receiving the information from the Governor alongside a priority list and cost of these items to share and discuss with the ORR School Committee and towns, then sharing it with the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Muse.

Motion Carried 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Nelson  
Superintendent of Schools