

BUDGET COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

I. WELCOME

Superintendent Todd Hamilton welcomed everyone to the Budget Committee work session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

Board Members in Attendance

Board Members attending the meeting included Ken Kohl, John Svoboda, Emilio Hernandez, Jonathan Light, Nicole De Graff, Nancy Cameron, Kelley Mason, Elaine Doornbus, and Hollea Puzio
Attending Virtually: Heather Quaas-Annsa

II. LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION w/Q&A

Chief Operations Officer, Brett Yancey provided the following update of the agenda; Due to a scheduling conflict, both Representative Lively and Senator Prozanski were not in attendance that evening. Yancey added that they would try to reschedule them for the March meeting.

III. 2023 - 2024 ENROLLMENT UPDATE

A. Enrollment -vs- Functional Capacity

Brett Yancey explained that enrollment is probably one of the more critical components when working through the budget because the way the state funds school districts and ESDs is based upon school enrollment. The state compares two years at a time, in which the resource given to the district is based upon the higher of those two years. Unfortunately, the state as a whole following the Pandemic, is seeing a sustained enrollment decline of between 5% - 8% depending on the district you live in.

Functional capacity for each school is not the fire marshal's number on building capacity. It is the ideal number of a school given its square footage and building footprint, including an assumption of the number of students in a classroom and an assumption of all spaces used for educational purposes. Currently the Springfield School District has a little over 9,000 students, not including online. The functional capacity is a little over 11,780. The district's high-water mark was around 11,200 students. Comparing enrollment to functional capacity, there is still room for about 2,700 additional students.

Director Hernandez asked how they project that start and what would occur if students were to return to the state.

— *Yancey* replied if students moved back, school capacities and boundaries would be looked at. If there were a huge development it may force a conversation with the city, around expanding the urban growth boundary, which is a city decision. They are currently conducting a study in projecting the enrollment start. Brenda develops the enrollment projections, data of live birth rates, building stats and current developments, which are used toward making that projection. This report will be delivered at the end of the month or beginning of March and will be brought before the School Board and the Budget Committee for review.

B. Impact of Revenue and Future Funding

The Springfield Public School District (SPSD) district is about 181 students below projections starting this school year, however they have budgeted in a way that they try to maintain classrooms and teaching staff at the beginning of the year, as well as some reserve positions already accounted for in the budget. Yancey stated they are deeply committed and focused on stability in Springfield.

- Springfield has lost 229 students from last year to this year, due to homeschooling and families leaving the state. The State of Oregon is down 30,000 students.
- Silver Lining - Springfield is entering the second year of a biennium, meaning the allocation has already been set and will not be an issue until the school year 2025-26 and 2026-27. At that time the legislature may choose to increase or decrease the allocation. Yancey noted that is where advocacy comes into play.

Director Quaas-Annsa asked if Springfield receives funding for students who homeschool and extracurricular activities.

— Yancey answered there would be a small revenue portion if they participate in any individualized district education system class. Students participating in extracurricular activities would be supported, but that would be at an additional cost to the district.

IV. 2023 - 2024 BUDGET SUMMARY & ESSER UPDATE

Yancey predicted the district will lose some revenue due to enrollment decline. The December estimate of the State School Fund was \$86,425,142. The estimate will be updated in March and those two estimates will provide the district the initial projection for next year.

Bulk of Revenue:

- 98.7% of district funds are tied between two sources; State School Fund and Property Taxes
- Since 2018-19, about \$7 million in Property Tax Revenue has grown during that time period

Summary of Current Increases to the General Fund Budget

- An increase of \$4,949,315 in collective bargaining contractual agreements
- An increase by about \$380,000 to the Unappropriated Fund Balance
- An increase of about 50% to the property, casualty and auto insurance
- An increase of Charter School enrollment, led to a \$150,000 allocation
- An increase of 5% in utilities
- An increase of \$125,000 in CTE program supplies

Summary of Current Decreases to the General Fund Budget

- A decrease of \$1,225,280 in staff FTE due to enrollment decline
- A decrease of \$400,00 voluntary Early Retirement Fund contribution
- A decrease of \$75,000 in rent for A3 additional space no longer`
- A decrease of \$2,350 in debt service payments

ESSER I Update (100% Expended)

Deadline was September 20, 2022

Total Allocation = \$2,2791,846

- Temporary teaching staff & associated payroll costs
- Additional certified and classified staff extra duty pay
- Child care staffing & related payroll costs

- Additional services related costs (telephone, etc.)
- Back to school supplies for families
- Air purification systems for all facilities
- Personal protection equipment and safety supplies
- Computer equipment and software
- Allocation to Private Schools & Long-Term Care/Treatment

ESSER II Update (100% Expended)

Deadline was September 30, 2023

Total Allocation = \$13,043,872

- Elementary temporary certified staff (11 FTE)
- Summer Learning Programs
- ASMS & Mt. Vernon HVAC repair
- District-wide HVAC replacement projects
- Summer Nutrition Services staff, food and supplies
- R-Zero Arc units (UV disinfection units)
- Staff retention stipends and COVID expenses
- Health Services COVID Coordinator
- Technology - Chromebooks
- Additional duty and Instructional Software

ESSER III Update (64.0% Expended)

Deadline was September 30, 2024

Total Allocation = \$29,294,683

- District-wide HVAC replacement projects
- HS Summer Credit Recovery Program (including supplies)
- K-12 summer academic & enrichment programs (including supplies)
- K-12 library & media supports
- K-12 textbooks and District-wide technology support
- Transition to kindergarten curriculum & classes
- Elementary Music Program investments and HS musical instruments
- HS CTE & Fine Arts Program investments
- Additional (temporary) classified full time employment (FTE)
- Certified staff development
- Instructional software for online learning
- Required pass-thru to Private and Charter Schools

V. CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS UPDATE

Director of Teaching and Learning, Whitney McKinley acknowledged her wonderful team of teachers and administrators that help support the process that goes into the recommendations for textbook materials. She provided an overview of what happens at the state level and the steps following.

Instructional Materials Timeline & Overview, Standards Adopted

- October: Instructional Materials Criteria Committee determine criteria & recruitment begins in August
- November: IMCC develops adoption criteria for the content area under consideration
- January: State Board of Education (SBE) adopts the criteria
- March - May: Recruitment and appointment of Evaluation Committee
- July - August: Training of Evaluation Committee and subsequent review of submitted materials

- August - September: Score notification to publishers; list of recommendations organized for SBE
- October: SBE adopts list of recommended materials
- November - January: In-person and digital caravans allow districts to see the products prior to purchasing
- District purchases and implements materials within one year of SBE adopting the list

Director Kohl asked how this would affect the current budget being planned for next year's budget and is the curriculum a one-time purchase or an ongoing cost.

— *Yancey* answered, they had several years back, committed the district to allocating a million dollars a year to two specific funds, the Instructional Materials fund and the Technology fund. Extra funds are being spent this year on textbooks and additional funds have been set aside outside of the general fund for textbook purchases.

— *McKinley* replied yes to both a one-time cost and a subscription. The curriculum is pre-purchased for the seven-year contract, while some of the consumables are on a subscription, which is a contract that locks the district into the contract price. These types of costs are planned for prior to purchases.

There are multiple touch points every year, throughout the year where content doses are supporting the schools and ensuring there is a regular review and update they engage in at every grade level:

- What is or is not working and identifying possible gaps
- Conduct course progression in lessons
- End of school year - Teacher representatives from each grade level take all the recommendations from the year, revise and place them back in front of things in the fall.

VI. DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS / CLARIFICATIONS / REQUESTS

Director Kohl was curious as to the total cost or value of the school supply donation received and how that might translate if the district were to provide that for all students.

Director Light expressed four areas of concern:

- Ensuring there is a budget for individual programs so the coordinator remains focused on making family engagement and support connections
- Would like to consider strategies to help schools with facility limitations, meet the physical education standard, while keeping the kids safe and warm through the rainy season
- Interested in discovering the type of long-term strategy in place for sustaining the district's significant equipment assets
- SHS campus beautification, such as a walkway similar to the breezeway at Thurston, enhance the courtyard area, and added manpower for the Facilities and Maintenance team

Board members offered possible ideas to raise funds for the SHS campus:

- Student and staff work parties
- Grant opportunities
- SEF or the PTAs or Boosters
- Coursework

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Having concluded all other work session business, Superintendent Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

(Minutes recorded & transcribed by Trenay Ryan, (LCOG))