

Caesar Rodney School District
Citizen Budget Oversight Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
5:00 p.m.
August 7, 2024

I. Opening

The meeting commenced at 5:00 p.m. at the Caesar Rodney District Office. The following members were present: Shari Gary, Cheryl Precourt, Jessica Marelli, Julie Lavender, and Drew Slater. Meaghan Brennan, Caesar Rodney School District (CRSD) Director of Finance and Nicole Polite, CRSD Supervisor of Finance, were also present.

II. Discussion Items

- A. DAA Evaluation of Fiscal Management Policy. Mrs. Brennan reviewed the policy. Mrs. Brennan cited the next steps of needing to recruit a member of the teacher's union.
- B. Mrs. Brennan shared the June 30, 2024, Monthly Financial Board Report. She shared highlights such as all schools ending with a positive balance. Mrs. Brennan then discussed budget areas that exceeded their initial budget. Shari Gary pointed out the mark up on substitutes using a contracted vendor.
- C. The tax rates effective July 1, 2024, were discussed with the committee. Mrs. Brennan discussed reassessment and the impact of assessment on the new tax rates. She discussed the 10% increase in the current expense rate while other amounts remained flat. Ms. Marelli asked if there was a comparison of tax rates to other districts and Mrs. Brennan confirmed we still have the lowest current expense rate.
- D. The FY2025 preliminary budget was discussed. Mrs. Brennan shared that Caesar Rodney's 98% unit count is 638.96. She shared highlights on the preliminary revenue budget and discussed adjustments to the expenditure budget such as increased driver's education costs, collective bargaining agreements, and School Resource Officer contract. She shared how school budgets were calculated and that the preliminary expenditure budget is less than revenue to ensure carryover balances.
- E. Mrs. Brennan shared an update on ESSER funding that our balance is \$2.9 million with an encumbrance balance of \$2.2 million. She shared that the ESSER balance will be used for two large projects include Caesar Rodney High School HVAC renovations and smart boards at all of our schools. Ms. Marelli asked what

happens to the old smart boards and Mrs. Brennan shared that they are offered to Partech, then surplus.

F. Other Items:

- i. Shari Gary asked if there are any large upcoming financial items. Mrs. Brennan shared that the operations groups are due to submit their five year plans in the coming weeks.
- ii. Cheryl Precourt asked about the Safety and Security budget. Mrs. Brennan shared that we get funding from the Department of Education for Safety and Security and that a large portion of this funding is used for Constables.

III. Adjournment