Dayton School District #8
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BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
The Budget Committee of Dayton School District No. 8 met on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, in the district board room, broadcast online via zoom.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Board Chair Larry Ringnalda called the Budget Committee Meeting to order at 6:05 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members	**Administrators/Board Secretary**
Larry Ringnalda, Chair	Amy Fast Superintendent
Kraig Albright, Vice Chair	DeAnn O'Neil, Contracted Deputy Clerk
Veronica Palmer - *Absent*	Sean Burke, Contracted Employee
Pieper Sweeney	Molly Arce, District Secretary
Ann Coleman	
Terri Paysinger	
Christopher Wytoski	
Budget Committee Members	
Jeffery Crapper	
Jeremy McLoud	
Amy Webster	
Kathy Koball Miller	
Roger Webb	
Ukiah Bunn	
William Willis	

Public Comment
There was no public comment

Election of Presiding Officer
Motion
The Board Chair opened the floor for nominations to elect the Presiding Officer. A motion to nominate William Willis as Presiding Officer was made by Director Terri Paysinger, seconded by Rober Webb. Nominations were closed, and the motion to elect William Wills as Presiding Officer passed unanimously on a raise of hands.

Presentation of Budget Message and Budget Document
Superintendent Amy Fast delivered the 2025–2026 Budget Message, emphasizing the bold, values-driven direction of Dayton School District. Highlights included: (Record copy on file.)

- **Vision:** Schools as community hubs—supporting all ages from early learners to adults—through meaningful, skill-based programs and community partnerships.
- **Values-Based Budgeting:** Despite financial challenges such as declining enrollment, rising staffing costs, and reduced state funding, the district remains committed to student success and long-term investment in programs that reflect Dayton's unique strengths.
- **Pathways & Innovation:**

- Investments in specialized programs including Agriculture, Health Services, Fire & EMS, Human Performance, and more.
- Expansion of high-interest and high-impact courses such as American Sign Language, Women's Weights, and Student Leadership.
- Sustaining key supports like College & Career advising, Senior Seminar, and behavior intervention.
- New targeted support in 6th and 8th grades to ensure successful student transitions.

- **Staffing Priorities:**
  - Focus on hiring and retaining high-quality educators who align with the district's mission.
  - Emphasis on relationships, not just roles—building trust and capacity within every classroom.
  - Maintaining low class sizes: 20:1 in elementary and junior high; 16:1 in high school.
- **Strategic Communication & Outreach:**
  - Launching efforts to build district pride and identity, making Dayton a destination district.
  - Improving transparency and community voice through audits, surveys, and long-range forecasting.

Financial Overview & Planning

- **State School Fund:** Down to under $8 million; total budget slightly reduced from prior year.
- **Ending Fund Balance:** Maintained at 8%, within healthy range for financial stability.
- **Anticipated Funding:** Strong potential for a $750,000 State Literacy Grant.
- **Growth Outlook:** New housing developments and IDT enrollment (17% of total) position Dayton for long-term growth.
- **Facilities & Capital Planning:** Long-range planning underway (20-year horizon), guided by site walkthroughs, audits, and community surveys. A long-range facilities committee meets monthly and advises on maintenance vs. bond planning.

Enrollment & Class Size Discussion

- **Enrollment Trends:** Declining due to smaller incoming classes and large graduating cohorts.
- **Class Size Review:** Focused on student needs and course demand. The superintendent and staff explained that low-interest classes were not offered to allow resource optimization.
- **Committee Feedback:**

- Chris advocated for establishing a 16:1 student-teacher ratio as a target.
- Burke and Crapper noted that support roles skew averages.
- Request made for clarity on actual classroom sizes and student interest data.

Master Scheduling & Staffing Allocation

- **Master Schedule Development:** Built around student need rather than staff preference. Teachers help forecast student placement.
- **FTE Allocation:** Budgeted by building and program with detailed transparency including loaded salary/benefits.
- **Discretionary Budgets:** Program and building leaders were given control over spending categories coded 300+, enabling site-level decision-making.
- **Chris appreciated the collaborative process of aligning budget to site-specific needs.**

Other Key Areas Reviewed

- **Food Services, District Office, and Extra Duties**
  - Evaluated stipends, extended contracts, and athletics budget.
  - Reviewed budget coding for accuracy and tracking.
- **Substitute Pay:** Roger raised concern over competitiveness; district is reviewing.
- **Nursing Services:** New internal hire under consideration to better serve student health needs.
- **Library Staffing & Admin Roles:** Questions raised about admin FTE at the grade school given lower enrollment. District reviewed needs and allocations.
- **IDT Policy:** State prohibits screening or selective admission practices. Focus remains on maintaining open access while maximizing funding.

Committee Actions

Next Meeting Scheduled:
Motion by Bill to move the next Budget Committee meeting to **Tuesday, May 27th at 5:00 PM**.
Seconded by Roger. Motion **approved unanimously**.

Approve Changes to the Proposed Budget
There were no changes to the proposed budget.

Approve Budget and Certify Tax Rate

Motion

No motion was made.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:08 PM

Respectfully submitted,

William Willis, Presiding Officer
Dayton Budget Committee

Molly Arce, Board Secretary
Dayton School District