SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS **BUDGET COMMITTEE**
SPRINGFIELD, OR 97477 **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Budget Committee members in attendance included Board Chair Jonathan Light, Vice Chair Amber Langworthy, Directors Ken Kohl and Nicole De Graff; At-Large members Patrick Walch, Hollea Puzio, and Nancy Cameron.
Absent: At-Large member Elaine Doornbus.

District staff in attendance included Brett Yancey, Jeff Michna, Melissa Stalder, Whitney McKinley, and additional audience members.

I. Welcome — Brett Yancey

Chief Operations Officer Brett Yancey welcomed everyone. The Budget Committee work session came to order on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

II. 2025-2026 Enrollment Update — Brett Yancey

Yancey emphasized the importance of the district's main objective: increasing graduation rates. The graduation rate is 76.95% at present. The 20% growth in graduation rates over 17 years and the 13.4% growth in the past eight years, including during the pandemic, was discussed. The need for reflective investment in students was stressed.

— Vice Chair Amber Langworthy joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

The district's enrollment forecasting process, including in-house short-term projections and long-term projections by Flo Analytics was explained. Details of the data sources used by Flo Analytics, such as the Census Bureau, Oregon Health Authority, and Portland State University were provided. There is a 300-student drop in enrollment projected.

The importance of accurate enrollment forecasting for funding purposes was discussed. The long-term reduction in enrollment and the impact of demographic changes on the district's projections was mentioned.

Budget Review Highlights:

- The 2025-26 Budget increased $10,833,415.
- The 2026-27 Budget decreased $2,657,999.
- The public employee retirement system (PERS) rate at 5% will remain consistent this year but will need continued monitoring.
- Significant increases in the payroll rate (80% in personnel costs) and the move of the co-curricular fund into the general fund.
- The impact of property and casualty insurance increases and the need to maintain a contingency fund.
- The use of one-time funds for ongoing costs, such as upgrading the HVAC systems was explained.
- Charter school pass-through and other miscellaneous expenses.

- Budget decreases, including reductions in the co-curricular fund and the unappropriated ending fund balance were outlined.
- There was a discussion regarding the difference between unappropriated ending fund balance and contingency funds.
- The impact of enrollment declines on discretionary budgets in schools.
- The importance of maintaining financial reserves and the district's policies regarding reserve levels.

General Fund Ending Balance and Financial Ratings

- The importance of the general fund ending balance and its impact on financial ratings.
- An explanation on the historical context of the district's financial management and the impact of low reserve levels on creditworthiness.
- District efforts to rebuild reserves and the recent upgrade in financial ratings.
- The projected spend down of reserves and the potential impact on future budgets.

The 2026-27 Budget Forecast:

- 2026-27 projected budget deficit: $10,400,173.
- Projected increases in property taxes and decreases in state school fund revenue due to enrollment declines.
- The impact of collective bargaining agreements and insurance increases on the budget was discussed.
- The need for additional revenue sources to offset projected deficits.
- The importance of accurate budget forecasting and the challenges of maintaining financial stability.

Enrollment Decline and Capital Improvement Impacts

- Impact of enrollment declines on district revenue and the need for structural improvements.
- The need for difficult decisions and the potential impact on staffing and services.
- The challenges of maintaining and upgrading aging facilities, including the impact of property insurance changes on building maintenance costs.
    - Buildings over 50 years old are excluded from insurance coverage unless loss is due to a named peril.
    - 12 sites have no insurance coverage for certain parts of the buildings.
    - There is no immediate danger to students or staff, but lack of insurance coverage remains a concern.
- The need for long-term planning and investment in infrastructure to support the district's goals.
    - The district issued a request for proposal for structural engineering services, which were approved and currently being conducted by Miller Engineering Services.
    - The district incurred $180,000 in invoices from the structural engineer, with more expected as work continues.
    - The Board approved a $250,000 budget for these services. An amendment may be needed if costs exceed this amount.

Yancey emphasized the importance of maintaining financial stability and the district's commitment to responsible budgeting. The ongoing process of budget development and the need for collaboration and input from the budget committee and board was also explained.

Next Steps

- Issuing a request for proposal for construction services to conduct necessary repairs.
- Repairs may include tension cables, new beams, and other structural changes, with a similar district spending $1.8 million on such repairs.
- Engineering updates are expected within the next few weeks, with the larger repairs taking several months.
- Money will need to be kept in the district's budget for these repairs, which will extend into the next year.
- The analysis is ongoing, with some repairs being performed internally, but the bulk of work to begin after the structural engineering services (RFP) is issued.

Chair Light inquired of the state's facility assessments and budget numbers for necessary work.

Yancey explained that the state conducted assessments on all school buildings in Oregon, with reports indicating significant infrastructure needs.

Cost-Saving Measures and Budget Reductions

- The implementation of a spending freeze for non-essential expenditures, including Amazon online accounts and purchasing card accounts.
- District implementation of an out-of-state travel freeze on personnel, except for positions related to student safety.
- The district is also looking at expenditure reductions in areas like services, electricity, and travel to further save costs.

Board Requests:

- More detailed information and updates from the structural engineers about which of the 12 sites require repairs and the expected scope.
- The exact date when the district bond rolls off.
- Report on findings for future policy consideration regarding student device accountability.

IV. Technology Fund Update Jeff Michna

The technology department manages 8,500 devices for students and staff, with 8% lost annually, and is exploring student accountability for damages. These devices have an estimated life span of 4-6 years, with vendor support ending when updates are no longer available. The district has a system to maintain inventory and ensure students have working devices, with a 10% buffer of devices available for checkout. Repairs and maintenance costs have increased, with 1100 repairs last year and 900 repairs to date this year, primarily due to the age of the equipment.

The challenges of managing lost and damaged devices were discussed, with 8% of devices lost and 10% requiring new chargers. The district is considering implementing a model where students are held accountable for lost or damaged devices. Ways to extend the life of the devices through repairs and reuse of parts are also being explored.

Since 2014 there has been one full replenishment cycle of Chromebooks, with the end of the second replacement cycle coming up soon. Approximately 80% of Chromebooks will be end-of-life in 2028. The district hopes to even out that $4 million future expenditure plan out between summer of 2026 to spread purchasing across multiple years.

- The technology fund stands at $5.9 million, covering replacements and infrastructure costs. The district is upgrading 320 switches and 290 projection systems, with $800,000 in federal funds.
- The district has 700 staff devices, with approximately 150 being replaced per year to maintain a five-year refresh cycle for staff machines.
- The district will pursue E-Rate funding and prepare a purchase plan for replacing core network switches across district sites.
- The district is currently 95% through a wireless access point upgrade project.
- The E-Rate program provides significant discounts, crucial for maintaining infrastructure and technology updates.
    - Develop and implement a phone-system modernization plan to convert from copper to internet-based communications with cellular backups prioritized for fire/emergency channels.
    - Plan and schedule firewall upgrades to modernize filtering and protect district networks and provide student/staff content filtering.

V. Curriculum/Instructional Materials Update Whitney McKinley

Director of Teaching and Learning Whitney McKinley, provided an overview of the instructional materials fund, noting the shift from basal textbooks to high-quality instructional materials. McKinley provided an overview of the adoption process, emphasizing the seven-year cycle and the challenges of frequent changes. Recent adoptions include K-12 health and high school science, with a two-year extension for social sciences and elementary science. The state is considering extending the cycle to 10 years to reduce costs and increase stability for teachers.

Overview:

- The district's strategic plan includes technology-rich classrooms, and hybrid materials, combining hard copies and online resources.
- High-quality instructional materials include a bundle of materials aligned to state standards, with options for different student needs and opportunities for formative assessments and critical thinking.
- The state process for reviewing and adopting instructional materials involves multiple committees of educators, and the district follows a similar process to ensure compliance with state and board policies.
- The state's rigorous criteria for inclusion on their list of instructional materials.
- Teachers are involved in the review process, and the district provides opportunities for stakeholders to review and provide feedback on the materials being considered for adoption.
- The composition of curriculum committees, which vary by grade level and content area.
- The impact of legislative requirements, such as Aaron's Law, on curriculum adoption and the need for supplemental materials.
- The process of evaluating curriculum programs for gaps and determining the feasibility of adopting them.
- The alignment of curriculum goals with board policies and state standards.

Director Langworthy inquired about community involvement in curriculum decisions and the impact of technology on student learning.

McKinley explained the district's approach to reflecting and refining curriculum practices at the building level.

VI. Discussion/Questions/Clarifications/Requests

Chair Light requested more information on the timeline of the levy.

Yancey explained the timeline and process for issuing and collecting revenue from levies, noting the community's past experience with successful and unsuccessful levy attempts.

Director Kohl asked about the district's approach to evaluating what is and what is not working in terms of budget cuts.

Yancey emphasized the importance of constant reflection and adjustment in curriculum and instruction practices.

Yancey discussed the role of the superintendent and leadership team in driving this reflection and the impact on budget decisions. Yancey concluded by noting that the systems and supports in place will provide a 20% increase over a period of time and a 12.5% increase over an eight-year period of time. The challenges of making budget reductions while maintaining growth and success was acknowledged. The importance of community and legislative engagement in the budget process was noted.

An invitation to visit the board was extended to Representative Lively and Senator Prozanski, to share legislative session highlights.

Next Meeting:

March 12, 2026 — Budget Committee Work Session

VII. Adjournment Brett Yancey

Brett Yancey adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG)