Regular Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2026 7:00 p.m.

Andy Gardner, Superintendent

The entire Budget Committee meeting can be viewed by clinking on this link:
https://www.youtube.com/c/GreaterAlbanyPublicSchools

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER (7:00 P.M.)

School Board Chair Brad Wilson called the May 20, 2026 Budget Committee Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

School Board Chair Brad Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Stephanie Lunceford	School Board Member
Kris McLaughlin	School Board Member
Sean Taylor	School Board Member
Brad Wilson	School Board Chair
Brent Belveal	Budget Committee Member
Doris Johnston	Budget Committee Member
JoAnn Miller	Budget Committee Member
Allison Ruari	Budget Committee Member
Timothy Washko	Budget Committee Member
Andy Gardner	Superintendent
Jane Nofziger	Executive Director of Business & Finance
Bruce Schmidt	Assistant Superintendent
Dave Bolin	Executive Director of Operations
Lindsey Hall	Assistant Business Manager
Lindsey Hart	Assistant to the Executive Director of Business & Finance

C. BUDGET COMMITTEE OPERATIONAL TASKS

1. **Election of Budget Committee Chair:**
   School Board Chair Brad Wilson requested a Budget Committee Chair be nominated. Budget Committee Member Tim Washko nominated himself. Budget Committee Member Doris Johnston moved to approve, School Board Member Sean Taylor seconded the motion. Nomination was approved unanimously.

2. **Approval of Budget Committee Minutes for the June 11, 2025 meeting**:
   Budget Committee Chair Tim Washko asked for a motion to approve the Budget Committee Meeting minutes from the June 11, 2025 meeting. Budget Committee Member Doris Johnston moved to approve the minutes. School Board Chair Brad Wilson seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. **Budget Message from Superintendent -** Andy Gardner
   Superintendent Andy Gardner presented the budget message addressing the proposed 2026-2027 budget. Superintendent Gardner spoke about the significant financial challenges with a projected $10 million deficit that was reduced to $4 million in cuts through additional revenue and strategic planning. The primary challenges include declining enrollment and increased operational costs. A decline in student enrollment has impacted the district with a loss of 367 students (4% decline) between 2022-2026, resulting in $5.8 million less funding. There has been a $5.7 million increase in salaries, payroll costs, PERS and operational expenses. With strategic planning, the district is using $4.2 million in one-time fund balances to minimize cuts while maintaining the 8% reserve requirement by the board.

4. **Budget Presentation –** Jane Nofziger
   Executive Director of Business Jane Nofziger spoke about the district's collaborative approach to staffing reductions while prioritizing student learning and classroom preservation. Total staffing reductions include the elimination of 45 positions (22 certified, 21 classified, 2 administrative). Only 13 classroom teaching positions were cut despite losing 360 students. Nine licensed non-classroom positions reduced to preserve classroom staffing. 25 certified and 18 classified staff are retiring or have resigned naturally.

   Director Nofziger spoke about the effects of both the state and federal funding and the impact they have on the district's budget. Oregon lost $800 million due to federal tax code changes and recent elections created an additional $700 million transportation funding gap. The federal healthcare responsibility shifting to states is also threatening education funding. Several key programs received focused attention and investment despite budget constraints. Special Programs serves 1,300 students with IEPs with $21.7 million general fund support. Online Learning has added a second curriculum option to retain students and prevent charter school transfers. Director Nofziger also updated the committee on fund balances. The General Fund is ending at board-required 8% reserve ($11.1 million) after deficit spending. The Special Revenue Fund is ending at $29 million, with grant funds being repurposed to support FTE. Capital Projects is ending at $2.8 million allocated for facilities, with separate funds for athletic facilities and technology replacement. Debt Services is managing three debt obligations totaling $24 million, with PERS bond ending in two years.

D. BUDGET COMMITTEE QUESTIONS – Jane Nofziger

- School Board Chair Brad Wilson asked about setting up a reserve account to set aside roughly $150,000 each year for textbook and software adoptions that occur every several years. Discussion ensued.

- School Board Chair Brad Wilson asked about fuel costs and asked whether they were increased in this year's budget. Business Director Jane Nofziger said they had been.

- Budget Committee Member Allison Ruari asked about the budget process and what to expect between this meeting and the next meeting on June 3, 2026, including whether any changes would be made to the budget, specifically regarding grant funds. Discussion ensued.

E. DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS – Led by Budget Committee Chair Tim Washko

No additional questions were asked.

F. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.