



Budget Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2026, 5:00PM
55 Academy St, Lebanon, OR 97355

Present:

Nichole Piland, Chair

Melissa Baurer, Vice Chair

Lorlee Engler, Member

Mike Martin, Member

Clyde Rood, Member, via zoom

Jeff King, Budget Committee Chair

Anthony Morelos, Budget Committee Vice Chair

William Barish, Budget Committee Member

Roger Maurer, Budget Committee Member

Kelly Tucci, Budget Committee Member

Jennifer Meckley, Superintendent

William Lewis, Chief Operations Officer

Steven Prososki, Finance Director

1. WELCOME

Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/@lcsdboardmeetingstream6568/streams>

1.1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Budget Committee Chair, Jeff King.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

3. PROPOSED BUDGET QUESTIONS

Before Steven shares Q & A, Superintendent Jennifer Meckley shares a revised athletics reduction proposal based on feedback received. The proposal would reduce the planned athletics budget reduction by \$30,000 by restoring one assistant coaching position (reducing the total assistant coach reductions from 10 to 9), helping provide greater equity among coaching staff, particularly for dance and cheer. The proposal would also maintain current student athletic participation fees rather than implementing the previously proposed fee increases. The revised proposal offsets approximately \$30,000 in planned reductions.

Jennifer also explains that the athletics budget has historically included approximately \$50,000 for contracted athletic training services, currently provided through Beaver Sports Medicine. The athletic trainer positions must first be posted as licensed positions before contracting is allowed if no qualified applicant is available, so the district plans to budget for a 1.0 FTE athletic trainer position at an estimated cost of \$70,000. This adjustment increases the General Fund transfer to athletics to approximately \$100,000. To offset the additional cost, the district plans to reduce one licensed position at Lebanon High School, with the reduction identified based on enrollment projections.

Board members discuss the proposed reduction of one high school position and seek clarification regarding the athletic trainer position. Jennifer explains that the athletic trainer position has a unique working calendar and schedule. Board members asked whether the district could partner with organizations such as Samaritan or Western University to provide services if the position is not filled.

Steven reviewed and responded to additional questions submitted by Budget Committee members as noted below:

- What do future budget forecasts look like?
 - Steven reviews the district's low, middle, and high-case financial scenarios and indicates that he anticipates the district will likely fall between the low and middle projections. He emphasizes the importance of closely monitoring October 1 enrollment figures, as enrollment will significantly impact the district's financial outlook. He also notes that the district's budget challenges are not temporary and

that the district is approaching budget planning thoughtfully and cautiously with a long-term perspective focused on maintaining financial stability.

- How many buses does the district lease and what is the remaining balance?
 - The district currently has four buses under seven year lease-to-own agreements. Annual lease payments total approximately \$129,031, with \$130,000 budgeted for the upcoming year. No additional bus leases or purchases are anticipated at this time. Balances are \$112,000 on four buses and \$168,000 on the other three.
- Is fund 270 a new fund?
 - In a sense, yes, it was budgeted and planned for summer school, though the district did not receive the grant that would reimburse, therefore it will be removed from the proposed budget.
- Is fund 277 a new fund?
 - This is the Seven Oak Seismic grant that the district was awarded.

Discussion took place regarding summer school programming. It is shared that the district does not plan to offer a general summer school program this year, aside from high school credit recovery opportunities, which are funded through the General Fund at an estimated cost of \$20,000–\$30,000. Board members ask about the district's unsuccessful application for the summer learning grant. It is noted that limited feedback was provided beyond the district's application scoring lower than other applicants. An article discussing concerns about the equity of the grant award process is referenced and recommended for Board review. It was also noted that the grant is awarded on a three-year cycle, making the district ineligible to reapply next year.

The proposed budget changes are reviewed and reiterated. Discussion includes questions regarding the impact of reductions to instructional assistant positions in grades K–3, with Jennifer providing an overview of the staffing changes. Questions were also raised regarding the increase in unemployment costs, and Steven confirmed that unemployment expenses have increased.

Board members express appreciation for the information provided, the collaborative approach taken, and the compromise reflected in the proposal. The Board acknowledges and appreciates

the feedback received from the community and expressed hope that community members felt their voices were heard.

Melissa shares that Rob has done an excellent job communicating with the community regarding alternative football opportunities through Mid Valley Rebels, including scholarship availability and community support.

Jeff thanked staff for their engagement, responsiveness, and efficiency throughout the budget process.

Board members expressed disappointment regarding the loss of middle school football but noted their appreciation that alternative opportunities remain available for students.

William Barish expresses concern about the long-term sustainability of public education, noting that expenses continue to rise while enrollment shifts toward virtual schools. He questions whether education systems at the district and state levels are planning for how public education may need to evolve over the next 10 years. Several committee members agreed with these concerns.

Jennifer shares that she actively participates in superintendent advocacy groups and engages in advocacy efforts whenever possible. Mike adds that strong student outcomes and results are among the most effective forms of advocacy.

William Barish also emphasized the importance of the socialization opportunities provided through public education and suggested that future planning may require different investments, such as less transportation and more technology or infrastructure. He encouraged districts to begin considering these shifts now.

Melissa noted the importance of continuing to advocate at the legislative level and ensuring policymakers understand the local impacts of proposed laws and regulations, particularly when they create additional challenges for school districts.

Clyde expresses appreciation for restoring a coaching position and for removing the proposed athletic participation fee increases as part of the budget. He also inquired about the district's bus lease obligations, and Steven provided information regarding the current lease-to-own agreements and associated annual payments.

4. 2026-27 BUDGET APPROVAL

Mike motions to approve the proposed 2026–27 budget. Melissa seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

5. THANK COMMITTEE

A thank you goes out to the Budget Committee, Board Members, and district staff involved in the process of the budget.

6. ADJOURNMENT at 5:34 PM.

Signed: Nicholas M. Puland
(Board Chair)

Date: 6/11/26

Signed: Jennifer Meckley
(Superintendent)

Date: 6/11/26

May 21, 2026

(This sheet will become part of public record)

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