

MINUTES, ASD BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 22, 2020

ASD Board Chair Jim Westrick convened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

A roll check confirmed that all Budget Committee members were present:

Curt Bacon	Tomas Monter-Rangel
Chris Chambers	Shaun Moran
Victor Chang	Sabrina Prud'homme
Mark Decker	Eva Skuratowicz
Daric Lucero	Jim Westrick

Also present:

Jackie Case representing Ashland Education Association (AEA)
Serena Robinson representing Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA)

ASD Administrators:

Superintendent Kelly Raymond
Finance Director Alana Valencia
Operations Director Steve Mitzel
AHS Interim Principal Samuel Bogdanove

Budget Law Process

Finance Director Valencia reviewed the budget law process including school board policies:

- DB District Budget (role of budget officer)
- DBE Budget Preparation (role of superintendent)
- DBEA Budget Committee (roles and procedures)
- DBG Budget Hearing (for public comment)

Selection of Presiding Officer

The first order of business was selection of a presiding officer for the committee. Ms. Prud'homme nominated Curt Bacon to serve as Chair of the Budget Committee. Mr. Monter-Rangel seconded the nomination.

Mr. Westrick called the roll:

Ms. Skuratowicz voted Yes	Mr. Decker voted Yes
Mr. Chang voted Yes	Mr. Lucero voted Yes
Ms. Prud'homme voted Yes	Mr. Monter-Rangel voted Yes
Mr. Moran voted Yes	Mr. Westrick voted Yes
Mr. Chambers voted Yes	Mr. Bacon voted Yes

Mr. Bacon nominated Mark Decker to serve as Vice Chair of the Budget Committee. Mr. Chang seconded and Mr. Decker agreed to serve if elected. Mr. Westrick called the roll:

Ms. Skuratowicz voted Yes	Mr. Decker voted Yes
Mr. Chang voted Yes	Mr. Lucero voted Yes
Ms. Prud'homme voted Yes	Mr. Monter-Rangel voted Yes
Mr. Moran voted Yes	Mr. Westrick voted Yes
Mr. Chambers voted Yes	Mr. Bacon voted Yes

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Budget Message

Superintendent Raymond read the Budget Message introduction, reviewed the major sections and read the Conclusion.

Budget Officer Review of Significant Changes to the Budget

Ms. Valencia made several observations about the draft budget:

- The Student Investment Account funding is somewhat uncertain. The district has halted all recruitments supported by this funding pending the May 20 State revenue forecast and subsequent guidance from ODE.
- The budget assumes State school funding based on the February 25 forecast of about \$13 million
- An amount shown as ESD Equalization is listed incorrectly. This is actually an annual reimbursement from ESD of payments made by the district for services which it did not use. The amount of \$529,000 is an estimate based on prior years. The formula may change pending the outcome of state budgeting.

General Discussion

There followed discussion among committee members about how best to proceed given the current uncertainty about revenue. The following points were raised:

- It is not clear how to evaluate projected expenditures without knowing more about possible revenues from all sources.
- The District has not begun to do contingency planning on the guidance from ODE
- The State has emergency reserves and at this date is projecting that some Student Success Act revenue will be collected.
- Superintendents of many districts have asked the State to prioritize Measure 98 (Career and Technical Education) dollars because funds are already encumbered.
- Ms. Valencia noted that basing a budget on a best case scenario allows the district more flexibility to make changes without revisiting the basic budget authority granted by the school board.

- Changes in specific fund allocations may need to be revisited, similar to the probable need to reallocate funds to food services to cover the costs of providing meals during school closures.
- If Student Success Act dollars are significantly changed, school districts will be required to submit amended plans. The school board would need to approve a plan revision and its associated expenditures.
- July 1, 2020 is the deadline for approving a school budget, mandated by state law. The district could push the budget review and approval timeline to later in May-June.
- There was a discussion of possibly forecasting alternative scenarios based on differing revenue models. The current projection is based on optimal funding. Perhaps staff could prepare one assuming flat funding and one assuming cuts at the rate estimated by state government.
- The committee would like high level ideas from the administration of potential targets for budget reductions. Detailed scenarios should not consume excessive staff time given the demands of distance learning delivery.
- It is unclear what the impact may be on local revenue sources, i.e., property taxes or the YAAL. Ms. Valencia will confer with the assessor for thoughts. The current YAAL levy is scheduled to end June 2021.
- If significant changes are required to the Student Investment Account plan, there was a request to include members of the original SIA planning group in re-setting priorities.
- It is not yet known whether ODE will issue specific guidance on revising SIA plans or leave the decisions to local districts. It is likely that ODE will want to see evidence of local engagement in making the decisions about what to revise

Public Comments

Ms. Valencia reported that no comments were submitted.

Next steps and revised budget calendar

The committee agreed to use a common online tool to collection questions and comments. Ms. Valencia will create the document and sent out a link to the members.

The following schedule was proposed:

May 27, 2020	Next Budget Committee meeting
June 10, 2020	Hold for a third Budget Committee meeting if needed
June 22, 2020	School board holds special session for Budget Hearing and vote on the budget.

Ms. Prud'homme moved and Mr. Lucero seconded a motion to approve the revised calendar. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the members.

Ms. Prud'homme expressed appreciation to Mr. Bacon for serving as chair and to Ms. Valencia and staff for the budget preparation. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.