

Bend-La Pine Schools
Board of Directors Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 12, 2020

Meeting Location:

To support Governor Brown's executive orders for social distancing, the Board of Directors conducted the Budget Committee Meeting virtually, through Cisco Webex.

Board Members Present

Julie Craig
Carrie Douglass
Shimiko Montgomery
Caroline Skidmore
Melissa Barnes Dholakia
Amy Tatom
Stuart Young

Budget Committee Members Present

Natasha McFarland
Matt Hillman
Heidi Slaybaugh
Tom Bahrman
Marcus LeGrand
Sharon Bellusci

Budget Committee Members Absent

Rick Olegario

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Budget Chair McFarland, roll call followed.

Review of Agenda

Budget Chair McFarland reviewed the agenda. There were no changes.

Approval of Minutes

Tom Bahrman moved to approve the April 14, 2020 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes. Heidi Slaybaugh seconded the motion. Unanimous approval

Public Input

There was no public input.

Budget Update

Budget Chair McFarland thanked all for attending virtually and invited Superintendent Mikalson to share an update on the 2020-21 budget message. Mikalson thanked all for attending and shared about the potential financial impacts districts in Oregon are facing due to COVID-19. The budget presented does not reflect any of the financial impacts, however, the district is fully aware and prepared to adjust and possibly reduced spending once the state releases more specific funding information for the 2020-21 school year. A revenue forecast is expected on May 20 which will hopefully include a better picture of what Oregon school districts are facing.

Mikalson noted there will be some fiscal relief provided by the Federal CARES Act and possibly from Governor Brown and the Legislature, with a Special Session anticipated in mid to late summer of 2020. Mikalson thanked Brad Henry for his leadership, noting Bend-La Pine Schools is in a much better fiscal situation than many other districts in Oregon. He is hopeful the district will continue to operate at current service level for the 2020-21 school year.

Budget Question & Answer

Superintendent Mikalson and Brad Henry offered to answer any questions. Melissa Barnes Dholakia asked what the specific impact of the proposed budget shortfall will be for Bend-La Pine Schools. Henry said the district is about 3% of the state's K-12 budget. Tom Bahrman asked where additional cuts might be made and how would the ending fund balance be considered. Mikalson shared the district is currently in a hiring freeze and has revised staffing plans for the 2020-21 school year which do not include SIA funds. He feels confident the district will be able to maintain its current service level. The proposed budget includes a 5% ending fund balance as defined by Board policy. Henry noted that any change or consideration of using the ending fund balance would be a decision of the Board.

Henry also reviewed the Question & Answer document prepared with questions received after the April 14 Budget Committee Meeting.

Budget Deliberation / Approval

Budget Chair McFarland opened asked if there was further discussion about the proposed budget. Bahrman noted the role of the Budget Committee and said he would be comfortable approving the budget as presented. As the funding picture becomes more clear, he asked Board to consider including Budget Committee members in discussions to advise and consult regarding large decisions. McFarland agreed and would appreciate continued participation and conversation beyond the approval tonight. Melissa Barnes Dholakia agreed including Budget Committee members in updates and future discussions is a good idea.

Brad Henry reviewed the timelines districts must adhere to with budget approval. Oregon law requires districts to approve a budget by June 30 each year. Prior to the approval, the Budget Committee must approve the proposed budget and a Public Hearing about the proposed budget must take place. He reminded all that a Board can continue to include the Budget Committee in updates and changes to the budget, but formal approval of the Budget Committee is not necessary once the Budget Committee has approved the proposed budget.

Discussion ensued on the budget approval process related to the potential news of additional resources and funding.

Matt Hillman moved to approve the assessment of the permanent tax rate of \$4.7641 per \$1,000 of assessed value in support of the general fund, to approve a tax of \$36,821,292 in the Debt Service Fund for the purposes of the payment of bonded debt owed by the school district, and to approve the budget in the aggregate amount of \$481,511,977. Tom Bahrman seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Budget Chair McFarland thanked all Budget Committee Members, School Board Members for their service.

Budget Committee Chair McFarland adjourned the budget committee meeting at 5:52 p.m.
Co-Chair Craig said the regular board meeting would begin at 6:00 p.m.

Recorded by: Andrea Wilson

Approved at 6.10.2020 board meeting