

**Bend-La Pine Schools  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: April 13, 2021**

**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. The meeting was also live streamed to the BLS Schoolboard YouTube webpage.

**Board Members Present**

Carrie Douglass  
Melissa Barnes Dholakia  
Caroline Skidmore (*joined at 5:13*)  
Amy Tatom  
Julie Craig  
Stuart Young  
Shimiko Montgomery

**Budget Committee Members Present**

Matt Hillman  
Natasha McFarland  
Sharon Bellusci  
Shirley Olson  
Tom Bahrman  
Marcus LeGrand (*joined at 5:29*)

**Budget Committee Members Absent**

Rick Olegario

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Douglass at 5:02 pm, roll call followed.

**Public Comment**

Chair Douglass reviewed the process for submitting requests for live public comment and noted that instructions for submitting requests are at the top of each meeting agenda. There were no public comments received.

**Review of the Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Election of Budget Committee Officers**

Brad Henry took roll for the Budget Committee and then entertained nominations for Budget Committee Chair.

Tom Bahrman nominated Natasha McFarland for Budget Committee Chair. Carrie Douglass seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Committee Chair McFarland entertained nominations for Budget Committee Vice Chair. **Matt Hillman nominated Tom Bahrman for Budget Committee Vice Chair. Julie Craig seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.**

### **Budget Message**

Committee Chair McFarland invited Superintendent Nordquist to share the budget message. Nordquist reviewed the message presented at the March 9, 2021, Regular Board Meeting.

Nordquist shared the promise of Bend-La Pine Schools: Every student in Bend-La Pine Schools is known by name, strength and needs, and graduates ready for college, career and citizenship; as it is a foundation for the work of establishing priorities and investments. Nordquist reviewed the district and Board's desired outcomes which they measure and assess on a variety of levels.

Nordquist reviewed the district's strategic priorities and shared about the work being done and goals for each priority:

1. Empower student, family, and community voice
2. Create safer, healthier, more equitable school environments for students and families
3. Review and redesign curriculum to include anti-racist resources and diverse perspectives
4. Focus on core curricula, instruction, and assessment practices that elevate learning for all students
5. Diversify staff in all classifications

Nordquist noted the district's most important asset are the staff members of Bend-La Pine Schools; which is currently 1,778 FTE, and represents approximately 83-85% of the district's budget being devoted to salaries and benefits for staff. She noted that more than 100 positions have been added this past year to support learning in a pandemic.

Nordquist discussed how the district's strategic priorities are reflected in the general fund budget and reviewed the Student Investment Account (SIA) Purpose/Bend-La Pine Schools Priorities:

1. Students' Health and Safety
2. Reduced Class Sizes
3. Expanded Access to a Well-Rounded Education

Nordquist reviewed how the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and ESSER II federal support for COVID relief were used to focus on our outcomes and how the upcoming Spring 2021 ARP ESSER funds will be used.

### **Budget Document**

Committee Chair McFarland called on Brad Henry to review the budget document. He reviewed the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget Document that is available on the district website.

[https://www.bend.k12.or.us/application/files/5616/1800/8152/2021-22\\_Proposed\\_Budget-Final.pdf](https://www.bend.k12.or.us/application/files/5616/1800/8152/2021-22_Proposed_Budget-Final.pdf)

The proposed 2021-22 budget totals \$375 million for all funds. The General Fund Operations budget totals approximately \$200 million and incorporates resources available to the district,

including the following: \$9.3 billion State School Fund (SSF), Student Investment Account (SIA) investment of \$11.5 million; and federal support from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds.

Henry thanked Cindy Wallskog, who recently retired, and Leah Bibeau, who is new to the team, for their hard work, along with the rest of the team, in preparing this document.

Leah Bibeau will be sending an email to all Budget Committee members and Board members with her contact information and asked that they all review the budget and email her their questions prior to Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. All questions will be answered and responses compiled and sent back out to the team by Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> to review prior to the next budget committee meeting.

Carrie Douglass acknowledge Brad Henry for his diligence in presenting a balanced budget during the pandemic while maintaining the integrity of our programs.

Chair McFarland adjourned the budget committee meeting at 6:13pm and noted the next meeting is scheduled for

May 11, 2021, at 5:00pm.

Recorded by: Janet Bojanowski

**Minutes approved at 5.11.2021 Board Meeting**