



Greater Albany Public School District 8J
718 Seventh Avenue SW
Albany, Oregon 97321-2399
Maria Delapoer, Superintendent

Budget Committee Meeting

January 17, 2012

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Vice-Chair Frank Bricker called the January 17, 2012, Budget Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present were:

Frank Bricker	Board Vice-Chair
Jerry Boehme	Budget Committee Member
John Ewing	Budget Committee Member
Julie Jones	Budget Committee Member
Doug Marteeny	Budget Committee Member
Chris Norman	Budget Committee Member
Lyle Utt	Budget Committee Member
Maria Delapoer	Superintendent
Russell Allen	Director of Business
Steve Kunke	Assistant Superintendent
Randy Lary	Director of Human Resources

Budget Committee Members Bill O'Bryan, Sandi Gordon, and Will Summers made previous arrangements to be absent from the meeting. A list of others present at the meeting is attached to the original minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bricker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUDGET COMMITTEE OPERATIONAL TASKS

1. Mr. Bricker commented that everyone should have had an opportunity to review the minutes from the November 1, 2011 meeting. He then asked if there were any questions or corrections. There were none. Mr. Bricker asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. Mr. Marteeny made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2012/13 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Bricker then directed the meeting to Superintendent Maria Delapoer to discuss 2012/13 Budget Development. Ms. Delapoer took the opportunity to thank the subcommittees for their work in discussing and gathering information on their respective topics. She stated that she was looking forward to hearing their thoughts which will help identify priorities in preparing the budget. Ms. Delapoer shared that there was some good news. The good news is the fact that she does not anticipate the need to make further

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reductions, however she reported that there will not be enough to fix the underfunded areas. She emphasized that the information gathered tonight will factor into the development of next year's budget.

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bricker began by stating that the packet contained four subcommittee reports. Ms. Jones shared that she had brought a subcommittee report for Sandi.

Operation and Facilities Sub Committee

Mr. Bricker started with the Operation and Facilities Sub Committee and asked Mr. Utt what he had to report. Mr. Utt reported that the committee met one time for 2 hours and covered both facilities and bussing in that time. Mr. Ewing added that the information provided about facilities revealed that the energy savings the district has been trying to implement is being effective. However, one issue is that there is still a backlog of work orders. A question about the ability to use bond funds to pay for staffing costs related to building upkeep and improvements was raised. Mr. Ewing added that they received information about routing from the bus garage and that it appears that drivers are driving multiple routes during the day making efficient use of their time. He reported that they discussed the clock schedules as well with no complaints from bus garage personnel.

Mr. Norman stated that through his observation, it looks like many facilities staff who have good technical skills are leaving the district for better pay. Mr. Utt commented that other things that came out from their discussion was that a question is raised that by replacing old equipment with more efficient ones could pay for themselves in minimal time or at least be cost neutral over time.

Instructional Materials

Ms. Hultberg explained that this Sub-committee discussed the detriment of putting things off and getting further and further behind (like technology). She shared that the group believes that keeping up with technology could be a less expensive and more efficient way to deal with textbook costs in the long run. Licensure costs could be significantly less than textbook costs. They would like to see a study done to see if this could be a cost saving measure. Mr. Equinoa added that sometimes one has to invest now to save funds in the future. He emphasized that we continue to put funds into old materials and technology that has a short life span. He stated that it may take an initial investment now to save funds later. Mr. Equinoa also stated that the group talked significantly about grant writers to secure funds for instructional materials. There are funds out there to be secured although there are no guarantees. The only guarantee is that if you don't go after them then you are guaranteed \$0.

Ms. Hultberg commented about looking forward when looking at adoptions and being careful about obtaining rights to masters and other items rather than consumables. She went on to comment that the other part of technology is making sure we have the infrastructure available for teachers when using technology. Waiting for technology workorders to be completed interrupts classroom progress when a teacher has prepared a lesson plan and the technology doesn't work at the time. In addition to the infrastructure being available, it is also necessary for the Teachers to have the training and knowledge to use the equipment. They need support and time to make the technology viable to be able to hit the floor running when they get it in the classroom. Mr. Norman asked if there are any models out there that have been in effect over the last

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few years. Ms. Hultberg commented that it was part of the discussion that this would need to be looked at and studied. Mr. Boehme interjected that Astoria High School and Canby wrote grants for students to each have a lap top computer for their use. He stated that he didn't know how effective it has been to date but there are districts out there who are using this model. He commented that every job now uses technology in some way or another so we need a grant or bond to procure this type of technology and train our teachers on how to instruct with it. Mr. Boehme acknowledged that he has talked to different staff and it is a concern as to how to keep kids from losing or breaking these tools and being responsible for it. It may mean coming up with students providing insurance or a deposit so kids understand that it is valued. This is something that can be worked out, we already hold students accountable for missing textbooks, etc. Mr. Boehme commented that when a student needs to be moved up in math, the new curriculum could be downloaded immediately and off the student goes. He added that it would also be important to provide word and excel programs on the devices for secondary level students.

Mr. Bricker stated that giving kids a laptop does no good if the teacher doesn't know how to teach with it. In addition, computer downtime and the number of work orders can be an issue. Mr. Boehme suggested providing every incoming freshman the same laptop by using a grant, therefore over four years, having only 4 types or variations of computers to be worked on at any one time. This could cut down on maintenance issues.

Program Improvements

Ms. Jones reported that the Program Improvements committee met three times and went over a variety of items. She stated that the biggest finding was that the committee felt there are a lot of untapped resources out there. The committee felt that publicizing or advertising more about what is happening in the school district would help. Information about the pre-K initiatives being rolled out in the fall should be shared as well as information about the CIS connections program which pairs community groups with schools for mentoring which is in its infancy. Ms. Jones stated that she felt that the LBCC youth job fair and mock interviews with local businesses as a requirement for graduation was a good idea but felt that maybe job shadowing be added to it. She stated it was very structured, it covered typical interviews but was very fast. The job fair was good for students that "got it" but other students may need a different type of experience. The possibility of a variety of opportunities like landscaping, dental fields, etc be listed for students to have an opportunity to investigate. Apparently there are a number of businesses participating already but there need to be more. Ms. Jones reported that the committee talked about this being an option for kids rather than the job fair being the only sole requirement for graduation.

Ms. Jones stated that another part of their discussion focused on how each principal chooses to staff their school. Parents are expressing concern about one school offering a section of PE, another offering music, and yet another offers a counselor. The committee explored how these instances varied from school to school. Ms. Jones also reported that at the secondary level the committee also found that not all schools have the same electives and there seem to be a lot of transfer requests by students depending on what a particular school offers. The committee wondered if there would be fewer transfer requests if the schools were more equal. The committee also talked about extra-curricular activities and asked the secondary schools what electives they would want to offer. The main response has been that because of funds, they have to focus so much on core items that electives naturally fall by the wayside. Martha Kroissin, teacher from Lafayette Elementary School commented that as the state mandates all-day kindergarten in 2015, the mandate is unfunded and already looking at a small budget, it doesn't even begin to cover the cost of new

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kindergarten teachers much less the space that it will require. This again will result in class size increases.

Mr. Boehme asked if there had been any discussion about virtual schools at other high schools or other districts where a student could go to a computer lab and “scipe” into an instructional class. Ms. Jones responded that there is a sister program between Lebanon, Albany, and LBCC with an auto mechanics class where they share a site, but other than that they didn’t have much information. She stated that they had more discussion on a grant writer. Mr. Norman asked if the district has done any studies regarding online courses. Mr. Kunke responded that the district uses a Plato program and an Odysseyware program but both of them are used on a case by case basis according to the student’s needs. There can be additional costs associated with that. For example if there is a particular math class a student wants to take but we have that particular class staffed and have a seat available, the preferred alternative would be to have that student in our class. There would need to be a good reason to change that. Ms. Delapoer added that if there are specialty courses the district can’t offer with a large number of students interested, there are opportunities on doing it online, or even bringing a professor in from LBCC. Mr. Bricker added that at a conference he heard that some ESDs have contracted with online services so all schools under their umbrella can participate with a savings of scale.

Support for Students

Mr. Boehme reported that the committee met twice for a little over an hour each time. He stated that after discussion on extending instruction time and risk intervention, the committee gleaned that the key is getting students to grade level by 3rd grade. When this is done, students tend to be successful the rest of the way through their education. The question is how do we do that? Mr. Boehme shared that principals Lori Greenfield and Frank Caropelo talked with the committee about some of their summer and extended school day programs that have successful for their students. Mr. Boehme stated that the committee discussed opening up and extending library hours in the summer as a starting point and explaining to parents how important reading is. He shared that Mr. Caropelo reported that 60 students checked out over 800 books last summer at Waverly alone. He shared that Special Programs Director, Ryan Mattingly reported to the committee that many times when students on an IEP can be successful in class, they have the ability to get out of the IEP and into the mainstream.

Mr. Boehme shared that the discussions on safety and supervision also come back to money issues. He stated that the committee discussed ways to connect with volunteer groups to even have individuals check in for lunch or recess, just to have an adult presence and how it tends to alleviate some of the disciplinary problems. This is for all levels, elementary through high school. Mr. Boehme reported that another discussion was on transition from 8th grade to high school. He stated that Mr. Belveal from South shared his successes with students who went through the transition program this year compared to those students who did not have the opportunity. Mr. Boehme commented that a transition program would also be helpful for those students moving from 5th grade to middle school. He stated that another discussion was about having additional bus runs later from the high schools to be able to provide extra instruction time for students who need it. He commented that there is obviously a cost, and the routing would have to be looked into but it could have some merit even if it was just 2 to 3 days a week to get students the extra help.

Staffing of Schools

Mr. Bricker reported that in staffing the biggest problem are large numbers in classes and staffing overall is

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well below where it should be. All classes are too large and there are supervision problems because of the lack of classified employees, teachers, and administrators. He stated that not much could really be done about it until the economy turns around to be able to add individuals back. Mr. Bricker commented that the committee emphasized that when funds become available that add backs should not be based on the "formula" but to look at focusing at K-2 to help get students to grade level by 3rd grade. He stated that the committee felt this was very important and then in addition, the high schools having electives to keep kids interested in school. Ms. Hultberg shared that the committee discussed that in some of the smaller schools, PE and technology can't be provided because of the total number of staff and the difficulty of meeting contracted prep time. She stated that they also discussed how the same experience could be promoted throughout the district and doing it thoughtfully.

Mr. Bricker reported that other ideas the committee discussed was staffing by section like Fir Grove and Oak Grove. It is a model by taking two to three schools and combining them by grade so there are several classes of one grade which can be averaged out rather than one building having a very large fourth grade and another having a very small one. It would also help cut down on having to blend classes because of staffing. Mr. Marteeny emphasized that when the time comes and the economy turns around, that the district focus on where the additional staff goes, not .2 fte to one school and .15 to another. He also stated that the district should focus on putting classified back in the classroom first. Mr. Bricker stated that in the elementary schools they really rely on the classified staff to help run the programs. Math breaks into groups and classified help is needed in these situations. Ms. Hultberg added that the idea is being purposeful as to how the funds are added back in, the formula won't work. Goals need to be set as far as elementary, middle, and high school, and where can it be added for the biggest bang for the buck. Again, the idea being, add back in areas to be sure to get the most for our money.

BUDGET COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Mr. Bricker moved the committee into discussion. Mr. Norman asked if the staffing group discussed retention of staff or if staff was leaving because of the conditions. He stated that his concern was losing teachers to other districts or other states because of class size, etc. Mr. Bricker responded that his group didn't discuss that particular issue, however he believes that with the funding formula, that most districts are in the same situation. Ms. Hultberg commented that losing people to the private sector is a higher probability.

Ms. Delapoer stated that she had some information from the state as far as allocating funds. Mr. Bricker asked her to go ahead. Ms. Delapoer stated that legislature is to start a short session beginning February 1 and going for 35 days. She shared that there have been 250 new bills proposed and with a short turn-around time she doesn't think many will be passed this year. She stated that she has talked with Senator Frank Morse regarding Mandate relief, mandatory background checks, lead paint dust, and potential PERS questions that are part of the new bills proposed and the financial impact of new laws on districts.

Ms. Delapoer then passed out a packet of information from the Oregon Education Investment Board on how schools are going to be funded in the next biennium. The information she received from a Superintendent and Business Managers meeting is that there may be three buckets of funding. The first is the typical baseline funding based on enrollment, the second is outcomes or performance measures established as are kids ready for school; ready to think strategically, and will they be successful in college, vocation, and the community. She reported that some outcomes will be set by the state and others will be through

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achievement compacts with the districts setting their own goals and how to accomplish them. Ms. Delapoer stated that she feels that if this is adopted by the legislature we should be well positioned through our district accountability plan, and other partnerships we are developing with early learning councils, Headstart, and the county health department. Other funding may include innovative islands of excellence, many of which we are already doing.

Mr. Bricker commented that he would like to find funding for our pre-k programs like Mr. Caropelo has at Waverly. Mr. Bricker stated it is a good way to give them a head start, some are currently coming to school so far behind that it almost impossible for them to catch up. He also stated that the budget for summer transition programs for secondary level students should be funded as these programs are also so successful at keeping at-risk students engaged.

Mr. Boehme commented that he would like to see a technology committee get together to research not only issues on textbook costs compared to licensure costs, but all inclusive research of technology. He stated that this would probably take 18 months or so for a thorough research but this would help in the long-term so when a bond measure comes up, the district will have the information it will need. He stated that all schools are behind and we need to find a non-economic way to look forward. Mr. Utt stated that he agreed and stated that in some cases funds may need to be put aside to get the appropriate staff available at these meetings, for example sub costs, etc., so the individuals at the meeting know what the district has and what it can do. Mr. Boehme added that the district may have to invest a few dollars now to get the return down the road.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Norman asked if the district had used a grant writer in the past. Ms. Delapoer responded that many years ago the district had a grant writer, however, the position was not self-funded. She shared that Mr. Equinoa has been working on putting a plan together on how to do grant writing effectively, but we are looking at contracting and partnering with other organizations rather than trying to pay someone on staff. Mr. Equinoa added that he has had the opportunity to talk with several different school districts all of which have different ways of dealing with writing grants. He stated that accountability comes along with the grants and being able to totally fund the work that goes into them can be difficult. He stated that there are a variety of grants that we are aware of and we have no clue of how many there are out there that we are not aware of yet. Discussion ensued.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Bricker asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Mr. Bricker asked if there were any requests for information. There were none. Mr. Bricker then asked for any other discussion. Mr. Boehme asked what the plan was for moving forward. He stated that he thought the subcommittees did very good work and that he didn't want to lose momentum. Mr. Bricker stated that he was going to ask the superintendent to put a discussion on the Board agenda to see if the Board wants to have staff begin work on some of the research discussed earlier.

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Ms. Delapoer stated that it will be on the agenda for the February meeting and invited the Budget Committee members to come. She stated that they would look at exploring other sources of funding and/or resources, volunteers, and possibly a bond for technology. Ms. Hultberg stated that she had and shared insight for elementary school levels, but can't speak to the needs for the middle school and high school levels and suggested that the Board ask staff members they know from those areas to participate so there is representation from all areas. Mr. Norman commented that the information from Mr. Hunsaker in November was good and asked if there was a follow-up process to close the loop. He asked how the key points could be documented for future use. Ms. Delapoer responded that staff could capture key points from the discussion and minutes but didn't know if the group wanted to continue meeting as subcommittees. She stated that this meeting was to summarize thoughts so far and to get out and share the information with a broader audience. She stated that she would contact Mr. Hunsaker and ask if he had suggestions for a next step. Mr. Boehme suggested getting some bullet points together and at the February meeting see about breaking it down between what can be done in the near future and what can be done looking forward.

After discussion it was determined that the Committee would like to see each subcommittees provide a list to the Board of three to four things that need to be looked at (some direction from each of the subcommittees.)

ADJOURN

Mr. Bricker adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Frank Bricker, Board Vice-Chair

Recorded by Kathie Caldwell-Sullivan