



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

## ***Budget Committee Meeting***

April 21, 2014

7:00 p.m.

---

### ***MINUTES***

#### ***CALL MEETING TO ORDER***

Board Chair Frank Bricker called the April 21, 2014 Budget Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present were:

Frank Bricker	Board Vice Chair	
Jerry Boehme	Budget Committee Member	
Sandi Gordon	Budget Committee Member	
Doug Marteeny	Budget Committee Member	
Chris Norman	Budget Committee Member	arrived at 7:07 p.m.
Micah Smith	Budget Committee Member	
Lyle Utt	Budget Committee Member	
Jennifer Ward	Budget Committee Member	
Maria Delapoer	Superintendent	
Frank Caropelo	Assistant Superintendent	
Randy Lary	Director of Human Resources	
Russell Allen	Director of Business	
Ashley Netzel	Controller	

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. Approval of Budget Committee minutes for November 6, 2013

Mr. Bricker asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes from the November 6, 2013 Budget Committee Meeting. He asked if there were any corrections or concerns. There were none. Committee Member Doug Marteeny made a motion to accept the November 6, 2013 minutes. Committee Member Jennifer Ward seconded the motion. Mr. Bricker called for a vote. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Budget Committee Calendar Clarification

Ms. Delapoer explained that the Budget Committee Meeting originally scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> was rescheduled to May 19 because there was a conflict with an ESD Meeting for several committee members on the same evening.

## **Budget Committee Meeting**

April 21, 2014

Page 2

### ***INFORMATION REPORTS***

#### **1. TAG – Tonja Everest**

Tonja Everest, Elementary Curriculum Director began by introducing Emily Valdez as a key player in the TAG and Albany Online Programs she was to discuss. Ms. Everest commented that last year she presented a power point presentation reporting on where the district was in regards to the TAG program and how the district would like to move forward. She stated that having received additional funds from the Budget Committee, the district has researched and analyzed current tag procedures and determined that the program was not up-to-date; Albany's rate of identification was seven percentage points higher than the state average, and minority students had been under-identified as well as twice exceptional students.

Committee Member Chris Norman arrived at 7:07 p.m.

Ms. Everest commented that parents wanted more information and involvement. She shared that for the new program the district hired Ms. Valdez to serve as the district's liaison for the program, purchased new identification measures and tests, and submitted a new TAG plan. Ms. Everest commented that in addition to training our TAG facilitators and teachers on the new guidelines, Ms. Valdez will continue with ongoing identification support for teachers. She reported that the first TAG game night would take place at the District Office tomorrow night. She stated that grants had been secured to help purchase games that are designed for gifted thinkers that can be used with the whole family at all levels. Other TAG nights are scheduled. These events are designed to develop peer groups, allow parents to connect with other TAG parents, and provide ongoing support for parents.

Ms. Everest shared that plans for next year include looking into research and development of more programs and services to be offered by GAPS and to train teachers in what those are. She stated that Ms. Valdez will continue to support teachers and facilitate more TAG nights, provide opportunities for parents to listen to speakers, and to keep accurate information on the district web site that supports TAG.

Mr. Boehme asked about the meeting to take place tomorrow. Ms. Everest responded that it was to take place at the DO from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ms. Gordon asked what age group it was for. Ms. Everest responded that it was for all ages. Mr. Boehme asked if there was more discretion now once a student was identified as TAG. Ms. Everest responded that teachers are being trained on what to look for and gather the body of evidence to support the need for testing. The testing confirms the body of evidence. Mr. Norman asked when the next parent night was scheduled. Ms. Everest responded that it was scheduled for next fall.

Ms. Ward commented that the District was looking into the STEM program and asked what became of that. Mr. Caropelo responded that two teams of teachers looked at STEM and reported back that they believed that those classrooms already look like ours but there is significantly more paperwork and costs associated with the program. It was their recommendation not to pursue the program.

#### **2. Albany Online! – Tonja Everest**

Ms. Everest stated that the District has provided an online program for the last couple of years. She shared that last year the program served 7<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade and it was the district's goal to serve 25 students. She

## **Budget Committee Meeting**

April 21, 2014

Page 3

reported that the district not only met but exceeded that goal all year. Ms. Everest shared that after evaluation, the model this year was to expand the program for K through 12 and credit recovery continued through each high school. She stated that the focus was to recapture home school students, students attending other districts, and students attending other online programs. She reported that what was unanticipated was that the district was able to retain students who could not attend traditional bricks and mortar classrooms helping kids stay connected to our district and meeting medical needs at the same time. Ms. Everest reported that 39 students who had enrolled had such a great experience that they were able to return to their home schools.

It was thought that the drop in centers at South and Central would be highly used but that was not the case. Mr. Allen asked if it was easier to take classes online rather than in the classroom. Ms. Valdez responded that k12 went to common core standards many years ago and so the standards are interwoven. She commented that it was somewhat shocking for students because it was much harder than most thought. Students are now finding success in the higher rigor. Mr. Marteeny asked if there had been any numbers harvested for rigorous studies. Ms. Valdez responded that they had just started the first round of oaks testing, so it was too soon to tell.

Mr. Smith commented that lesson planning for common core can be difficult to take into a traditional classroom and asked if it was possible to glean anything from this program to benefit the classroom teachers. Ms. Valdez commented that teachers could see what it looks like but there is no way to take a lesson away from the program. Mr. Caropelo commented that there could be copyright issues that could arise from that. Ms. Delapoer thanked Ms. Valdez for her work.

### **3. Student-based Budgeting – Russ Allen**

Mr. Allen handed out a printout providing information regarding student-based budgeting. Ms. Delapoer stated that what she was trying to accomplish with student-based budgeting was meeting a goal to provide equity so that students receive resources they need in order to be successful. It is believed that schools that have more populations of underserved students such as ELL, economically disadvantaged, and special needs, schools need more resources to help their students be successful. These populations are weighted for additional funding.

Mr. Allen shared that changes in the funding formula for poverty in the state has caused the district to look at the way it budgets to revamp and rethink, ultimately sending more resources through student-based budgeting to the schools. He stated that the first two pages are repeats from last year. He stated that there is no road map and that every district deals with student-based budgeting differently. The goal is to add additional resources where they are needed. He explained there are five potential focus areas: prior achievement, ELL, poverty, special education and mobility. The three that were looked at were: ELL, poverty and special education.

Mr. Allen explained that at the elementary level Title schools receive federal funding for licensed and classified staff for high poverty. At the secondary level, there is an additional 25 percent weight for ELL students and an additional 25percent for high poverty schools for student counts above 40 percent at the MS level and 30 percent at the HS level (based on free and reduced numbers). Mr. Boehme asked for clarification regarding the number of Title schools in the district. Ms. Everest reported that Title funds must go to fund any school with 75 percent or higher poverty. She shared that we have five Title schools;

## **Budget Committee Meeting**

April 21, 2014

Page 4

and Title is on top of what the district funds across the board. Ms. Delapoer commented that those schools with higher poverty receive more than the baseline allocation to address the needs of the student population. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Boehme asked Mr. Caropelo to explain the impact of poverty on schools. Mr. Caropelo stated that by Federal law Title I can fund those schools with 35 percent or higher free and reduced rates because that's when poverty starts having an impact on students. Ms. Delapoer added that additional staffing goes into interventions, small group instruction and supplies. Mr. Smith asked about funds following students to their school. Mr. Caropelo stated that past performance of schools and demographics shifting within the community are reviewed every year to see if we are hitting targets. He commented that the equity of outcome is the key. Some funds are embedded in the base formula where each school can provide additional services and interventions for their students, but when there are a large number of students in need, the school needs additional funding. Mr. Allen then summarized the last page for the committee. Discussion ensued.

### ***SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE***

Superintendent Maria Delapoer presented her Budget Message to the Committee. She stated that last year's theme was "Investing in Student Learning" and it remains her focus for this year. She commented that the district must continue to align its time, talents and resources as investment in our students. She cautioned that although the revenue picture at the state level has improved the district still cannot address every need and wish so prioritization will have to be done to ensure to get the best return for every dollar.

Ms. Delapoer stated that funds must continue to be targeted on improving the quality of instruction by providing professional development and professional learning community time to have high-quality teachers in our classrooms and reasonable size classrooms where instruction can meet the needs of all students. She stated that we must make sure that we are remediating students from day one while it is the most cost effective and will have the longest lasting impact throughout their school careers. She stated that we must also provide opportunities for students to explore areas of interest and ability, through electives and activities, in order to develop their creativity and workforce skills in preparation to be successful adults.

Ms. Delapoer commented that she was excited about classrooms experiencing a new textbook augmented with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology which engages students and expands their learning. She reported that facilities, although well maintained, continue to age and require constant upkeep to meet the educational needs of students. The operating budget is not sufficient for the number of projects that remain on the deferred maintenance list. She shared that in the near future, the Board will need to consider reestablishing the District Facilities Advisory Committee to prepare for placing a bond before the community for facilities upgrades and rehabilitation.

In closing, Ms. Delapoer stated that our focus must remain laser-like and will unwavering. She shared that many of the goals will require incremental progress over multiple budget years. The goals will also require support from our community partners and parents to provide opportunities and experiences for our students. She stated that she believes that the school district is up to the task and is well positioned to make our schools exceptional centers of learning for the next generation of Albany students.

Mr. Boehme asked if there was any news about funding for all day kindergarden. Ms. Delapoer responded that we won't know about state funding until next spring and that money may need to be set aside for that just in case.

## **Budget Committee Meeting**

April 21, 2014

Page 5

### ***PRESENTATION OF BUDGET DETAIL***

Director of Business Russell Allen began by handing out copies of the Budget Document. He then went over the Budget Highlights for the Committee. He commented that being the second year of the biennium, it was easier to determine revenues. Mr. Allen reported that ODE recently implemented a new formula to determine the severity of poverty among school districts. This new formula increased the amount of funding we will receive from the state. He shared that he estimates that the Fund Balance will decline from \$8.5 million in 2013/14 to \$7.75 million in 2014/15.

Mr. Allen reported that the proposed budget increases the number of licensed positions by 27.2 FTE, of which the lion share has been allocated to schools to reduce class size, minimize split grade classes at the elementary level, increase electives and intervention classes. With this increased staffing, the base student to licensed staff ratio will decrease from 25.5:1 to 24.0:1. He shared that there was additional FTE allocated to Albany Options school, an additional 0.5 FTE added for ELL at NAMS, an additional FTE for Counseling Services, additional 1.1 FTE for Speech Path, 0.7 FTE for Improvement of Instruction and 2.0 FTE for administrative staffing. Mr. Allen shared that elementary classified allocations received a boost of 100 hours per day and a 5% increase in building allocations for all levels based on school poverty factors. He stated that the budget shows restoration of a plumbing position that was eliminated during the budget crisis and an addition of 6 hours for the district pool of custodial hours.

Mr. Allen explained that an area of focus is student emotional support/crisis management. In addition to the counselor position added outside of the building allocations, the budget contains \$40,000 in funding to train classified staff in behavior interventions and provide temporary direct support to facilitate the introduction and implementation of behavior plans for non-SPED students. This is intended to provide behavior plans for students before they become a problem. Mr. Caropelo added that the earlier we intervene with students who are experiencing difficulties adjusting to school, the better for the students. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Allen reported that also in the proposed funding was an increase in the area of staff development. This is to focus on ensuring that we have the highest quality of teacher in front of each class. Funds were also added to Improvement of Instruction to create teacher teams to evaluate instructional materials. Mr. Allen shared that the proposed budget provides each high school funding for an additional coach and assistant coach and two more assistant coaches for West because of the larger number of student athletes. All four middle schools have funding for three club advisors with one additional club advisor at each of the three 6-8 middle schools.

In regards to non-staff expenditures, Mr. Allen reported that non-staff allocations to buildings were increased by 8 percent. In addition, poverty weighting was added at the middle school level this year and enhanced at the high school level. \$25,000 was added to the high school program for the IBEW portion of the CTE program. Mr. Allen shared that because of the high cost of cafeteria tables funds have been included to replace tables at Calapooia and Memorial this year and that this will need to be a continuing project. He reported that the proposed budget includes funding to reestablish the district/school partnership in replacing carpet and window coverings and to include stage curtains and student desks. Mr. Allen shared that funds are included to allow for a K-12 Language Arts textbook adoption as well as additional technology innovation grants. He also shared that the proposed budget eliminates funding for a district grant writer, instead having the district help fund a GAPS Foundation Development Director.

Mr. Norman asked about revenue forecasting and if expenditures could level off. Mr. Allen responded that the proposed budget spends down the ending fund balance to \$5.9 million. He stated he is not comfortable at that level, however, the district has never established a policy regarding the level of ending fund balance. Mr. Allen commented that following this budget the legislature will go through the process for the next biennium, there is a slight concern that if we are flat funded, there could be some problems, however, the dollars are there and the needs are there and it is the Superintendent's recommendation to spend the dollars as proposed. Mr. Boehme asked why

## **Budget Committee Meeting**

April 21, 2014

Page 6

the Speech Path position wasn't one that we buy from ESD. Mr. Allen responded that the positions we purchase from ESD are those that are high cost, and low incidence; the speech path positions are high incidence positions.

Mr. Utt commented that the overall tone of the proposed budget is better than it has been in several years which is nice to see. Mr. Smith asked for more information regarding the number of teachers added. Mr. Allen responded that there were 21 teachers included for reduction in the student to teacher ratio there are another 6 added for a combination of student based budgeting and reserve for the fall. Ms. Gordon asked about the Timber Ridge Track Fund having a balance. Mr. Allen stated that Ashley Netzel the new controller found that funds that we thought were spent, were not, so there is \$15,000 remaining on the books that have to be spent on capital outlays. He shared that there is a plan in place for those funds.

### ***OVERVIEW OF STATE ACHIEVEMENT COMPACTS***

Mr. Caropelo referred to the Achievement Compact on page 10 showing categories on left side, with targets in graduation, secondary enrollment and data from last year. He reported that a new version is expected to go to the Board in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Delapoe commented that she believes that the proposed budget will help to make gains in all areas. Mr. Caropelo reminded the committee that these targets were for 13/14 set in 12/13 using 11/12 data. Ms. Ward asked if the percentages previous to 13/14 were actuals or targets. Mr. Caropelo responded that they were actuals.

Mr. Caropelo reported that in regards to the Advanced Diploma, the 4-year rate was 55.85% but when the advanced diploma results were added back into the equation the rate was 77.18% which was an increase from 75.82%. Mr. Caropelo reported that we exceeded the target for this year; it has become a very popular program. Ms. Delapoe stated that there is talk at the state level to revise the Achievement Compact to include the graduation rates. Mr. Caropelo reported that after first semester there were 170 students approved for Advanced Diploma; 140 students enrolled and 23 withdrew prior to the beginning of the term. After fall there were 131 students enrolled with 16 withdrawals. He shared that 44 students were the first in their families to attend college. There were a total of 1,827 college credits earned so far this year. Mr. Caropelo stated that there have been parent meetings held at both high and there is a lot of interest for next year.

Mr. Smith asked about priority and focus schools. Mr. Caropelo responded that there are two schools in this rating, AOS is a priority school and Lafayette Elementary is a focus school. Lafayette will not be out of this designation until after the 14/15 school year. He explained that ODE looks at all schools designating the lowest 5 percent as priority schools and the next 10 percent as focus schools. Mr. Boehme asked if progress was being made. Mr. Caropelo referred to page 25 and shared that Lafayette had a Level 2 rating in 11/12 and a Level three in 12/13. He stated that Ms. Everest has been working with them to provide a high quality of professional development in mathematics which has made a difference. He stated that with the shift to Common Core Standards, there will be a misalignment until the Smarter Balance outcome is known.

Ms. Ward asked how the report card showed a decline where the level was up on page 25. Mr. Caropelo replied that it is because of the way the testing has changed and the programs do not align and are measuring different things.

### ***BUDGET COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF BUDGET DOCUMENT***

Mr. Bricker commented that time was running out and since there hadn't been much time to go through the document yet, he went on to the next item on the agenda.

## **Budget Committee Meeting**

April 21, 2014

Page 7

### ***BUDGET INPUT FORUM/BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING***

Mr. Bricker referred to the Budget Input Forum portion of the Agenda and asked Mr. Allen to review the process. Mr. Allen explained that the Forum is an opportunity for individuals from the public to speak on the budget. In the past, time has been allocated at the beginning of the second scheduled Budget Committee meeting for this purpose. He commented that he assumes that there won't be much time taken up by public speakers and the Committee could continue with their deliberation of the budget document. Mr. Bricker asked if there were any comments. There were none. He asked if everyone was in agreement and all responded affirmatively.

### ***QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC***

Mr. Bricker asked if there were any questions from the public. Jennifer Moody from the Albany Democrat Herald stated that she had some questions but she would wait and ask them following the meeting.

### ***BUDGET COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION***

Mr. Bricker asked if there were any requests for information. Ms. Gordon asked if questions could be e-mail to Mr. Allen. Mr. Allen responded that e-mails were acceptable; they just need to be sent in by the beginning of next week so the responses can be included in the next Budget Committee packet.

Mr. Bricker asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

### ***ADJOURN***

Mr. Bricker adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

---

Frank Bricker, Board Chair

Recorded by Kathie Caldwell