



# Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2020

7:00 p.m.

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

Budget Committee Chair Chris Norman called the November 18, 2020, Budget Committee Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

## ***PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE***

Mr. Norman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Norman took attendance by roll call.

Chris Norman	Budget Committee Chair	Present
Jennifer Ward	Board Chair	Present
Eric Aguinaga	Budget Committee Member	Joined the meeting at 7:03
Kim Butzner	Budget Committee Member	Present
Heather Carmichael	Budget Committee Member	Present
Seth Christensen	Budget Committee Member	Present
Pat Eastman	Budget Committee Member	Present
Jake Gabell	Budget Committee Member	Present
Will Summers	Budget Committee Member	Present
Michael Thomson	Budget Committee Member	Present
Melissa Goff	Superintendent	Present
Lisa Harlan	Assistant Superintendent	Present
Russell Allen	Director of Business	Present
Randy Lary	Director of Human Resources	Absent
Ashley Netzel	Controller	Absent
Andrew Tomsky	Communications Director	Present

## ***BUDGET COMMITTEE OPERATIONAL TASKS***

Approval of Budget Committee Minutes from June 10, 2020.

Committee Chair Chris Norman asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes as submitted. There were no objections. Minutes were approved unanimously.

## ***RESPONSE TO BUDGET COMMITTEE QUESTIONS***

Mr. Allen provided a financial update to the committee (see attached). Chris Norman asked about the reduction to the Student Success Funds and Mr. Allen said it was related to Covid-19 recession and a drop from the corporate activity tax was less than anticipated. It is projected to rebound next year.

Michael Thompson asked about enrollment numbers and how it affects school funds. Discussion ensued.

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Chris Norman asked if there are state or national conversations about student enrollment numbers bouncing back next year and if so at what percentage. Mr. Allen said that he does not have an answer at this time, but prior to Covid the enrollment forecast showed that GAPS would see growth and that he is cautiously optimistic that enrollment will start to go back to what it was prior to the pandemic. Superintendent Goff explained that with Albany Online there is no loss in enrollment and that homeschooling students will begin to come back when in person learning returns later this school year.

Eric Aguinaga asked Superintendent Goff about lobbying to raise the eleven percent threshold for IEP reimbursement. Supt Goff said there has not been any conversation around that.

Eric Aguinaga asked about charter schools and how public schools only release three percent to online charter schools and he wonders if there may be lobbying to increase that.

Jake Gabel asked about using Portland State estimate of population to project student registration numbers. Mr. Allen said he has not seen publicly available Portland State enrollment projections before and he is not sure there is value added from that estimate. MR. Allen said there is not a declining base of school aged children in the district. Discussion ensued.

Chris Norman mentioned that the reserves looked to be going below the five percent threshold and Mr. Allen said it did drop slightly below the five percent for the 20/21 school year. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Allen reviewed the proposed budget calendar for review during the meeting and via email. Motion to accept the budget calendar was made by Seth Christensen, seconded by Heather Carmichael, and it was approved unanimously.

Superintendent Goff provided a district focus message and explained that the district is reviewing expenses to date on staffing that the district is underspending what they had projected by a sizeable amount (approximately four million dollars) currently and explained that Mr. Allen has provided conservative numbers and warned the committee that the numbers provided in the budget in April may vary greatly from what has been discussed tonight. Superintendent Goff said that the same message she provided last year in February of 2020 is the path that the district is still on as we move out of the pandemic and distance learning. Discussion ensued.

No comments from the public were received. Chris Norman said that the Budget Committee rarely has public viewers or comments and would like to see more people involved in the Budget Meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2021.

## ***ADJOURN***

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Approved by Chris Norman, Budget Committee Chair

Recorded by: Jennifer Sullivan