



Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2020

7:00 p.m.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Budget Committee Chair Chris Norman called the June 10, 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	Joined the meeting at 7:03 p.m.
Eric Aguinaga	Budget Committee Member	Present
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	Absent

BUDGET COMMITTEE OPERATIONAL TASKS

Approval of Budget Committee Minutes from May 27, 2020.

Committee Member Summers made a motion to accept the minutes as provided. Committee Member Carmichael seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESPONSE TO BUDGET COMMITTEE QUESTIONS

Mr. Allen stated he had received four questions which he provided responses to in the packet. He also reviewed them for the Committee. Mr. Allen said that the Assistant Principal was added at Meadow Ridge due to the number of students and staff. He also addressed the general nurse's duties being split between two general nurses now instead of one general nurse due to a growing need.

Mr. Allen mentioned the TAG program and additional discussion ensued regarding TAG and changes to the TAG assessment so that students are better screened.

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Mr. Allen provided recommendations to the proposed budget. Three corrections were proposed by staff to the budget and will be reflected in the approved budget. Mr. Allen referenced page 11 of the packet where the memo reflects the changes (see packet).

The first fund, Fund 298, called the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund, and sometimes referred to as the Measure 98 Fund, was out of balance due to an Excel spreadsheet error. Mr. Allen advised that the error caused an imbalance of one million dollars which attributed to multiple changes to the Fund in order to balance the revenues and expenditures. Mr. Allen explained that this fund is in danger of not being fully funded depending on the fallout from Covid-19 reduced revenue but if the State fully funds it they need to have a budget that reflects the fully funded plan.

The second fund, Fund 412, also known as Capital Projects - 2017 General Obligation Bond Measure, also had a spreadsheet error that has now been balanced to reflect all the revenues and make the expenditures match.

The third correction was to add a missing grant. The Oregon Seismic grant was originally missed in being added to the proposed budget and Mr. Allen recommends that it be included in the approved budget.

Mr. Allen referenced page 19 of the packet (see packet) and explained that GAPS came up with revised pages for the district performance measures. It is information for the public to understand how funds are spent. It is not an official aspect of the budget and the pages will be replacing the ones in the proposed budget. Page 18 includes three sample motions that Mr. Allen explained. Any questions?

BUDGET COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET

Norman said he is discouraged that the committee has not received any public comments and said it is the Budget Committee's responsibility to reach out to the community to encourage communication with the Budget Committee. Additional discussion ensued.

Summers motioned to approve the recommended changes to the budget presented by Mr. Allen. Christensen seconded. Unanimously approved.

Discussion about state funding changes and planning for the fall ensued.

Butzner asked if there are significant changes to the budget after it is approved what the process would be for that to get processed. Allen said that if the budget is reduced the district can spend less than what is budgeted with no requirement to revise it although there is an option to create a supplementary budget if there is a substantial decrease in the budget. Mr. Allen believes the board has the ability to create the supplemental budget on its own without involving the budget committee but they could be involved if so decided. Butzner said if there is a significant decrease, then priorities need to be addressed. Additional discussion ensued.

Summers addressed Mr. Allen and Superintendent Goff and said that that over the years the budget has included a quasi 85/15 to provide some funding for maintenance and asked if the bond funds will be used to pay for deferred maintenance. He said that with the reduction to 10 percent, necessary maintenance might not be getting done. Mr. Allen referenced page 42 of the budget and said that 91 percent goes to salaries and benefits which is higher than in the past. Superintendent Goff clarified that bond work cannot be used for ongoing maintenance but part of the bond work is addressing deferred maintenance to make critical facility upgrades to fix the problems created by deferring maintenance in the past. Discussion about how to move forward with maintenance continued.

Eastman recommended the group meet again soon to discuss significant changes that may be coming regarding the way the district will function this fall. Eastman also agreed with what Superintendent Goff said in regards to recurring maintenance and that the prior lack of funding for maintenance has attributed to the current state of things.

Aguinaga said that the part of the budget he didn't like the most, was that the district was planning to have counselors on hand in elementary schools for the next school year but it looks like the district will now have to try to get by with contracting some

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of that out. He said students are facing needs with social and emotional behavior not seen at these levels before. Some students have a greater need for counseling than education at this time and he feels counselors are very important to help elementary students. Superintendent Goff agreed that counselors and mental health professionals are needed and that reports of child abuse have decreased by 60 percent a day since school has not been in session because the mandatory reporters are not involved with students daily. She is aware that students will be returning to school with additional increases in trauma both physically and from the impacts from Covid-19. Superintendent Goff said that counseling is desperately needed for students but unfortunately very limited. Aguinaga asked if a levy would be supported to get counselors in elementary schools. Butzner agreed with considering other options and getting creative with working with the community to help students get access to counselors and mental health professionals. Additional conversation ensued. Thomson said that they should commit to finding solutions in the future.

Gabell suggested starting discussion about working to implement a policy for the unappropriated fund balance and reserve funds in the November meeting. Superintendent Goff said she just hired the Oregon School Boards Association to work on the boards policy updates and knows they will recommend having a policy in place. Norman expressed interest in being involved in participating in what the board would like to include in discussions on budget changes. Gabell said he appreciates the work that staff put into the budget but wishes they had more time. Mr. Allen said usually there is more time allowed for discussion of the proposed budget but this year was unusual.

Norman asked for a motion to approve the budget. Eastman motioned to approve the budget for the 20/21 fiscal year for 249,259,873.00. Gabell seconded and it passed unanimously.

Summers moved to approve property taxes for the 20/21 fiscal year at 4.5855 for permanent tax levy and in the amount of 13,688,065 for the general obligation bond levy. Seconded by Ward and it passed unanimously.

Adjourned 7:58 p.m.

BUDGET COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF PROPOSED BUDGET

Committee Member Summers made a motion to approve the changes to the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness and the Capital Projects Bond Funds and the inclusion of the Seismic Grant Fund as presented. The motion was seconded by Christensen. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Committee Member Eastman made a motion that the Greater Albany Public School District 8J Budget Committee approve the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year in the amount **\$249,259,873**. The motion was seconded by Gabell. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Committee Member Summers motioned for the Greater Albany Public School District 8J Budget Committee to approve property taxes for the 2020-2021 fiscal year at the rate of **\$4.5855** per \$1,000 of assessed value for the permanent rate tax levy, and in the amount of **\$13,688,065** for the general obligation bond levy. The motion was seconded by Ward. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Approved by Chris Norman, Budget Committee Chair

Recorded by: Kathie Vosper/Jennifer Sullivan