

MINUTES

Bethel School District #52 Budget Committee Meeting May 08, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Budget Committee: Richard Cunningham, Debi Farr, Caleb Clark, Robin Zygaitis, Greg Nelson, Erin Zygaitis, Alan Laisure, Jenna Hawkins, T. Erin Basinger, and Patrick Farr

Absent: Ashley Espinoza, James Manning Jr., and Jennifer Monegan

Paul Jorgensen joined the meeting via Zoom Webinar.

District staff and presenters: Superintendent - Kraig Sproles, Assistant Superintendent - Remie Calalang, Director of Business Services - Andrea Belz, Budget Secretary - Connie Quinn, and Board Secretary - Jill Busby

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Richard Cunningham called the Budget Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Cunningham called for nominations for Budget Committee Chair. Greg Nelson nominated Alan Laisure, Debi Farr seconded. Receiving no other nominations, Chair Cunningham asked for a roll call vote. Alan Laisure was unanimously elected Budget Committee Chair.

Chair Laisure asked for nominations for Budget Committee Vice Chair. Richard Cunningham nominated T. Erin Basinger, Jenna Hawkins seconded. Receiving no other nominations, Chair Laisure asked for a roll call vote. T. Erin Basinger was unanimously elected Budget Committee Vice Chair.

Debi Farr made the motion to appoint Connie Quinn as Budget Secretary, Robin Zygaitis seconded. Connie Quinn was appointed Budget Secretary.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET DOCUMENT/BUDGET MESSAGE

Superintendent Sproles, assisted by Director of Business Services Andrea Belz, presented the Budget Message for the proposed 2023-2024 budget. The budget as proposed reflects continued investment in the district's strategic priorities, a plan to gradually reduce expenditures over the next few years, and articulates the values that are important to the Bethel school community. Priorities have formed the foundation for a newly envisioned strategic plan that focuses on four areas: Joy & Wellness, Relevant & Responsive Learning, Engagement and Belonging, & Strong School/Strong Communities. From these categories a new mission statement was created: to create relevant, responsive, and joyful school communities where all students thrive. The Student Investment Account (SIA), and High School Success budgets are priorities reflected in the strategic planning for personnel and activities.

The 2023-2024 Proposed Budget is based on a presumptive \$9.9 billion State School Fund (SSF) appropriation. Strategic adjustments will be made to close the gap between anticipated revenues and ongoing expenditures. Due to the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund

ending in September 2024, declining enrollment, and inflationary pressures the district must decrease their General Fund budget. Approximately 87% of the General Fund budget is dedicated to personnel costs. Reductions in staffing levels for licensed, classified and administrative staff will be necessary and will be achieved by not replacing individuals who leave the district through attrition and retirements. For the 2023-2024 school year, resources from the ESSER fund and \$1.0 million of district reserves will be used to offset some of the necessary reductions.

Resources from the bond are being used to replace Cascade Middle School, build a new Career and Technical Center at Willamette High School, add additional learning spaces at Kalapuya High School, construct covered play structures at most elementary schools, update technology and textbooks, improve heating and cooling systems, and numerous maintenance projects at each building.

BUDGET COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Superintendent Sproles answered questions expressed by the budget committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE BUDGET MESSAGE

No public comments were made.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Budget committee members thanked Superintendent Sproles and Director of Business Services, Andrea Belz, for their great presentations.

REVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

- Thursday, May 11, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. hosted from the District Office Boardroom

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the Budget Committee, Chair Laisure adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Clerk

Chair