

MINUTES

**A meeting of the Springfield Public Schools (SPS) District No. 19 Budget Committee** was held May 17, 2018 in the Boardroom of the Administration Center.

**Attendance**

Budget Committee members in attendance were Nancy Cameron, Ken Kohl, Steve Irvin, John Svoboda, Keina Wolf; District staff, students and community members identified included Superintendent Dr. Sue Rieke-Smith, Brett Yancey, David Collins, Tom Lindly, Jenna McCulley, Brian Megert, Suzy Price, Sheryl Cramer, Bruce Smolnisky, Melissa Stalder, Gary Cole, Don Lamb, Kim Donaghe, Laura Pavlat, Joan Bolls, Brenda Holt, Judy Bowden, Whitney McKinley and Linda Henry.

Zach Bessett and Laurie Adams arrived at 6:07.

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – John Svoboda**

Mr. Svoboda called the Budget Committee meeting to order in the Board Room of the District Administration Center at 6:02 p.m.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

Mr. Svoboda led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. MAY 10, 2018 MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL – John Svoboda**

Mr. Svoboda called for corrections to the May 10, 2018 Budget Committee Minutes. No corrections were offered and Mr. Svoboda said the minutes would stand as presented. Mr. Yancey asserted a motion was needed for approval of the minutes.

**MOTION:** Ms. Wolf moved, Mr. Kohl seconded for approval of the May 10, 2018 Budget Committee minutes. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

**4. INFORMATION REQUEST AND RESPONSE – Brett Yancey**

Mr. Yancey noted he had sent information to Budget Committee members this week and did not intend to go over it at the meeting. He asked if Budget Committee members had questions about the material.

**a. Ballot Measure 98 (BM98) Four Year Budget Summary – Dave Collins—**

Mr. Kohl asked if there was a written plan on how SPS would implement BM98.

Mr. Yancey noted the implementation strategy of BM98 had been reviewed by Mr. Collins at the December 2017 Budget Committee meeting.

**c. Budget vs Actuals Summary – Brett Yancey**

Mr. Collins said staff had presented a summary at the December 2017 Budget Committee meeting which included proposed expenditures. The current plan was a proposal to the State of Oregon which the State was reviewing and would provide feedback to SPS staff. Staff would continue to look at the metrics that refined the plan and make adjustments as needed. He would provide Budget Committee members information about expenditures for the current fiscal year.

Dr. Rieke-Smith said the plan was currently at the State and she had received notification from the State today that they were in the process of reviewing plans that had been submitted. SPS would receive feedback by early June 2018 related to how SPS had met three major categories SPS was required to meet. The three categories included, Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, dropout prevention, and college and career readiness. Due to the manner in which SPS received funding, it must cover the three areas. This information had been submitted to the State. When the plan was approved by the State and SPS had made necessary amendments to be aligned with the State's rules around BM98, SPS would present a formal plan to the community.

Ms. Cameron asked what were the primary reasons for students dropping out of school and how did the SPS strategy address those reasons.

Mr. Bessett and Ms. Adams arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Collins responded SPS was working on being more able to accurately identify the reasons for students dropping out of school. There were several reasons for dropping out which included home, health and other situations, and the lack of alternative programs with outside agencies for those students who were not successful in traditional educational settings. One indicator that interfered with students working towards graduation was that working towards graduation was more challenging than dropping out. SPS sought to engage the students and their families in dropout recovery through SPS's attendance truancy support person, and to have conversations and identify the barriers and reintegrate those students back into SPS's system.

Dr. Rieke-Smith added SPS was excellent in bringing funds to the District from BM98 and the District had also dedicated funding for mental health support systems that provided wrap around services at the schools. Mr. Ricker recently completed a plan that provided wrap around services at District schools in partnership with Direction Services, Looking Glass, CAHOOTS, the Child Center and Ophelia's Place.

Mr. Svoboda said there were discussions at the last Budget Committee meeting about the Academy for Arts and Academics (A3) becoming a magnet school. He asked what the impact would be on the District.

Mr. Yancey explained the option that would have the biggest economic impact on the District would be if it was reestablished as a charter school. The District had discussed A3 becoming a magnet school or regular high school similar to the District's comprehensive high schools, Springfield High School (SHS) and Thurston High School (THS). An alternative program

similar to Gateways High School (GHS) could also be considered. These options would have equivalent financial impacts on the District. The District was budgeting for 252 students and Mr. Collins, Mr. Ricker and Mr. Smolinsky were struggling with staffing to ensure that all available options were available to students. The District had four different budgets prepared to meet the needs of enrollment from 252 to 350 students. Funding for 252 students was included in the current proposed budget. A3 would be in a transition year and additional funds could be provided to ensure a smooth transition.

**d. Safety Plans & Funding – Brett Yancey**

Referring to the Safety and Security Plans the District had sent to Budget Committee members, Mr. Svoboda asked if Resource Officers were included in the proposed budget and if there were any K-9 units.

Mr. Yancey explained that Resource Officers were Springfield Police Department (SPD) officers. Although SPD did have K-9 officers, they were not at the schools on a daily basis. He noted SPD used the old SPS Administration Building when training and certifying the dogs.

Mr. Svoboda asked if more money were available, how would the District use it?

Mr. Yancey explained the District already had submitted a request for an additional Resource Officer. However, the SPD currently did not have enough officers to cover its patrol needs. Until SPD had enough officers, they could not provide another Resource Officer thereby reducing the number of officers available to cover SPD's other needs. Mr. Yancey added that the District was working on pushbutton entries at all schools and he expected the work would be completed this summer. There may be as much as \$100,000 left from the wall infill at Yolanda Elementary School. If no bond money was available, the District did have sufficient funds to cover security needs. He said the rekeying of schools may need to be done over several years. The District was implementing a new system the would allow people to enter buildings with scanned ID cards and lockdown buttons would be installed at all schools. The District was also developing a security screening program for visitors to District buildings.

In response to Ms. Adams, Mr. Yancey said the District had reached out to the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) to inquire if a Lane County Deputy would be available to serve as a Resource Officer. She noted on a recent visit to THS, staff were pleased with the rekeying of building locks and using a card entry system. She noted THS staff also wanted bullet proof windows.

Mr. Yancey said the District struggled to make schools as safe as possible, but there would always be a human factor which the District had no control over.

Mr. Jobanek commended staff for pursuing the various safety improvement efforts. Board members understood that in a free society, if people wanted to do harm they would do harm. The District's actions were moving in the right direction. He asked if Mr. Yancey could provide identify costs of future upgrades at District facilities.

Mr. Yancey said some costs have been identified. Electrical service for gates was already in place and the District would need to purchase software for card readers and other needs. He added the District currently had a person who was in charge of distribution and tracking building keys.

Responding to Mr. Jobanek, Mr. Yancey said the District had been in conversation with SPD in looking at the downtown core area where individuals with nefarious motives combined with alternative programs presented problems and the District was constantly in the position of having to pull Resource Officers away from the schools to deal with other issues related to drugs and other issues. While stationed at the high schools, the officers also respond to feeder schools.

In response to Ms. Wolf, Mr. Yancey said officers did go to other schools when called to do so.

Mr. Bessett noted the University of Oregon (UO) had its own police department and asked if that was something SPS should consider.

Ms. McCulley establishing its own police department would be quite an undertaking. The District would be required to get approval from the State of Oregon, to do so.

Mr. Yancey did not believe any school district in Oregon had its own police department. Some large districts in other states, including Florida, Texas and California, with enrollments of 100,000 or more students, did have their own police departments. He was most concerned that SPD was not able to hire enough officers to meet its needs. He noted that Dr. Rieke-Smith and other District administrators have had conversations with the SPD Chief, and he understood the District's concerns.

Mr. Kohl directed staff and Budget Committee members to page 95 in the 2018-2019— Operating Budget—Proposed document and the Ending Fund Balance.

Mr. Yancey explained there was \$4 million in unappropriated funds and \$1 million in contingency funds, which would be rolled over to the next fiscal year if not spent. He cautioned Board members that a significant Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) increase was coming.

In response to Ms. Wolf, Mr. Yancey concurred that rental costs in the General Fund had increased due to contracts in place for A3. The District would be reviewing A3's needs before the fall semester.

Responding to Ms. Wolf, Mr. Yancey said the District had recently become self insured, and had partnered with the City of Springfield to provide a wellness center for employees.

In response to Mr. Irvin, Mr. Yancey said the District did have a stop loss allocation of \$250,000.

Responding to Mr. Kohl, Ms. Price said the District had been able to supplement Talented and Gifted (TAG) funds with other funding, and planned to have more resources for the TAG program this fall, which would enable additional enrichment activities.

**b. VER Projections – Brett Yancey**

Mr. Yancey asked if there were any clarifying questions regarding the VER and there none.

**5. PUBLIC INPUT – John Svoboda**

There was no one who wished to offer public comment.

**6. APPROVAL OF DOCUMENT - Committee**

**MOTION:** Mr. Irvin moved, Ms. Adams seconded for approval of the 2018-2019 Springfield Public Schools Operating Budget. Budget Committee minutes. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

Mr. Bessett asked if the District had allocated funds for the search for a new superintendent.

Mr. Yancey said the Board had appointed an Interim Superintendent at its May 14, 2018 meeting. He noted the Interim Superintendent intended to work less than full time. Salary and benefits for a full time superintendent were included in the Proposed Budget, which would provide sufficient funding for the search for a new superintendent.

In response to Ms. Adams, Mr. Yancey said the District would adhere to by Oregon budget law for the recruitment.

Mr. Yancey read The Resolution to Approve the 2018-2019 Budget.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Springfield School District budget in the aggregate amount of \$192,287,139 be approved and that the permanent tax rate of \$4.6412 per \$1,000 of assessed value be assessed in support of the General Fund. This permanent rate is expected to raise \$25,236,816, and
2. A tax of \$7,052,631\* is approved for the debt service fund for the purpose of retirement of bonded debt owed by the School District.

SIGNED:     John Svoboda                                     17 May 2018  
                  Budget Committee Chair Person             Date

ATTEST:     Susan R. Rieke-Smith                             17 May 2018  
                  Superintendent of School                 Date  
                  Springfield School District

The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

**7. BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETINGS – Mr. Svoboda**

Mr. Svoboda said it was not necessary for the Budget Committee to meet again this year.

Mr. Yancey said staff would take the Proposed Budget to a hearing and formal adoption at the Board's first meeting in June 2018.

**8. ADJOURN MEETING – Mr. Svoboda**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

*(Minutes recorded by Linda Henry)*