

ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J  
1201 TEXAS AVENUE  
VERNONIA OR 97064

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

May 23, 2013

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER:** The Budget Committee meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

**Board Present:** Jim Krahn, Bill Langmaid, Greg Kintz, Camrin Eyrrick

BOARD PRESENT

**Budget Committee Present:** Evan Stahlnecker, Brett Costley, Tobie Finzel, Deanna Pearl, and Don Schulte.

**Absent:** Cari Levenseller, Ernie Smith, Tim Bamburg, and Gennifer Hanner.

**Staff Present:** Ken Cox, Superintendent; Nate Underwood, Middle/High School Principal; Aaron Miller, Elementary Schools Principal; James Brookins, Special Ed. Director; Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant; Juliet Safier, Judy Gingerich, Kelley Murphy-Shaw, Kathleen Jackson, Michelle Eagleson, David Spackman, and George Spaulding, Licensed Staff; and Kathi Fetch, Classified Staff.

STAFF PRESENT

**Visitors Present:** April Bamburg (representing Vernonia's Voice), Amy Cieloha, and Kari Hansen.

VISITORS PRESENT

- 2.0 Approve Budget Committee Minutes:** Bill Langmaid moved to approve the Budget Committee minutes of 05/09/2013. Motion seconded by Tobie Finzel. Motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED

- 3.0 Budget Review / Discussion:** Dr. Cox explained that since the last budget committee meeting a questionnaire was sent to the budget committee members. He received seven responses. The focus of the questionnaire was to determine if the committee felt it was better to have less days in the school year and retain staff or have more days in the school year and reduce staff. The response received was 6 of the 7 responders favored cutting days over reducing staff.

BUDGET DOCUMENT DISCUSSION

It was clarified that a foreign language is not a requirement of graduation however it is a requirement to enter a 4-year university. The VEA contract states that the district cannot replace a person with an on-line course.

A comment was made regarding the option of reducing the school week to 4 days. Concern was raised about having enough seat time and utilizing student time better. Reducing celebratory days during homecoming was suggested as was extending the school day 15 minutes to increase student seat time. Dr. Cox explained that these are all topics of discussion that administration will have. The instructional calendar will build in add-back days in the event the district receives any additional money.

Dr. Cox read the approved budget message. The budget was balanced by reducing the contingency down to \$100,000 which is 1.6% of the overall budget. Since the last meeting the federal funding reductions included a loss of \$13,000 from Special Education and \$4,000 from Title I funding. Currently the proposed budget is short \$20,000.

Dr. Cox highlighted the changes between the proposed and the approved budget documents.

- FTE adjusted in VHS and VMS programs
- Two part time Inst. Asst. positions have been eliminated
- Spanish has been added back in
- Shop has been added back in
- Elementary PE increased due to position change at high school
- Special funds have been adjusted
- All calendars have been reduced nine days
- OSEA negotiations will impact the budget by \$10,000

Dr. Cox recommends cutting one additional day for a total of 10 and eliminate one more part time Inst. Asst. position for a total of 3.

The proposed budget is based on 16 additional students moving into the district. The ESD financial staff reviewed our budget and expressed concern with the number of new students we are anticipating. They feel this number is too high. Dr. Cox indicated that if he finds a new position and leaves the district the savings from his position change will cover the student shortage if less than 16 students materialize.

A question from the committee was asked of Dr. Cox. What is the plan if the students don't materialize and there is no change in the Superintendent position? Days and or staff would need to be reduced next Fall. This is not something he wants to happen and the VEA expressed concern about reducing staff in September.

A suggestion from the audience was to look at the possibility of cutting athletic budgets? The athletic budgets have been reduced. Mr. Underwood read a report from Gordon Jarman addressing the reductions thus far.

- All middle school assistant coaching stipends except track cut
- Middle school travel and supply budget reduced
- Repairs and maintenance reduced
- Officials/referees budget reduced
- High school assistant coaches for Softball and Baseball cut
- High school supply budget reduced

A comment was made that athletics are what keeps a lot of students in school and that athletics is at the bottom currently.

A question from the audience was asked regarding how special needs students are funded. According to Dr. Cox the district receives additional weighted money for all special needs students up to 11% of our population. We currently have 17% identified as special ed. If we spend over \$30,000 per student the state will help by splitting the difference with the District of any amount over \$30,000. As mentioned earlier the money we receive from the federal government will be reduced this next year.

Communication with the community was mentioned as lacking. The committee indicated that no matter how much you try to make information available there will always be someone that doesn't hear about it. Committee member Tobie Finzel stated that during budget season she hears a lot of comments and has sat down with staff and community many times. She does not feel the committee works in a vacuum.

Dr. Cox reviewed the proposed FTE report that was handed out for each building budget.

Miscellaneous comments were made on:

- Adding robotics back into the budget. It was noted that any expenditures for robotics would come from grants not yet received. Mr. Brookins indicated that \$6,000 is needed for next year.
- Utilities: a complete study was done and the numbers in the budget are based on actuals from the first year of operation. Dr. Cox indicated that he is not sure enough has been budgeted. The system is a computer controlled system and it is being monitored. The commissioning process won't be completely finalized until Sept/October time frame. It didn't get started until summer was over last year and the air conditioning wasn't fully tested.
- Middle School activities are still showing in the elementary budget. This needs to be changed.
- The district ESD credits are up slightly. The district is looking at hiring our own speech and language pathologist as well as a school psychologist as opposed to using credits for these positions. The ESD is happy to be taking on our business manager position. Dr. Cox feels the cooperative process will give savings to both.



- Band fees collected help to support the band program but the district still subsidizes this budget line. A specific line for band fees collected and spent was requested. It was noted that the band director position could not be found in the middle school program.

**4.0 Approve 2013-2014 Budget:** Bill Langmaid moved to approve the budget as presented with the suggested changes; add \$6,000 into robotics and comparable funds in donations; adjust calendar to include an additional cut day for a total of 10; and eliminate one more Instructional Assistant position for a total of 3. Motion seconded by Don Schulte. 2013-2014 BUDGET  
APPROVED

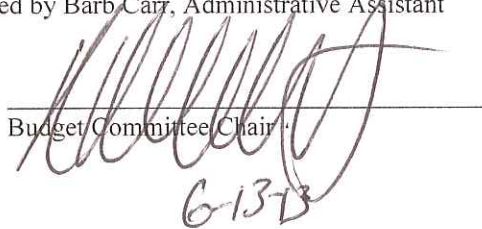
It was clarified that if there are typos, such as the middle school item in the elementary program, they will be corrected in the budget.

Motion passed unanimously.

**5.0 Other Issues / Next Meeting:** Dr. Cox thanked the committee for their time and dedication. The next meeting will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The committee will need to be present for the discussion and action to the 2012-13 supplemental budget. The public hearing for the 2013-14 budget will take place as well. OTHER ISSUES / NEXT  
MEETING

**6.0 Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m. ADJOURN

Submitted by Barb Carr, Administrative Assistant

  
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Budget Committee Chair  
6-13-13

  
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District Clerk

