

NOTES
BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
A Superintendent's Advisory Committee

District Office – 1015 7th Street, Novato – Room 107
January 13, 2025 from 5 - 6:30 PM

1. Welcome
 - a. **Homework for next time: Bring someone with you!!!**
2. Budget / Enrollment Updates
 - a. Jeff presented First Interim at our last meeting. There were no meaningful changes between that presentation and what was taken to the Board. We officially certified as Positive!
 - b. Enrollment is roughly 70 less than what was projected, but we are still up from 2 years ago. Our ADA percentage is around the same as last year.
 - c. Newcomer numbers have slowed down.
3. Budget Education
 - a. Governor's Budget (Joshua)
 - i. Highlights: what affects us!
 1. A Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.43% proposed (we budgeted 2.97%). It's not about how much it has increased from last year, but how close it is to what we budgeted. We use School Services of California Dartboard to project. Last year it was projected to be 3.5%, then went to 0.8%, then ended at 1.08%, so it could still change.
 2. TK is proposed to be funded at a 10:1 ratio (instead of 12:1)—we are already staffed at a 10:1 ratio at our own cost, so this would alleviate some district funds. Next year they're slotted to lower the age of TK, so that all 4-year-olds are eligible to enroll. As of now, you have to be 4 years, 3 months old. Moving forward it's any 4-year-old as of September 4.
 3. Food-For-All is still funded completely.
 4. There is talk of some investment in Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grants. This would be one-time money to continue the program for an extra year.
 5. Literacy investments – training/professional development for teachers and staff.
 6. Career Technical Education (CTE) – we have this at all high schools including Marin Oaks. CTE is currently funded by Strong Workforce Grant through Marin County Office of Education (MCOE).
 - b. Multi-Year Projections (Jeff)
 - i. The 120-page report that's taken to the Board can be very dense and difficult to understand. The Multi-Year Projection page (Form MYPI), tells you the financial status of a District for this year and the next two years. The first part shows the Unrestricted part of our budget (money we can spend on anything we want). The second part shows the Restricted part (money that can only be spent in specific resources). The third and final part shows both, the whole District budget.
 - ii. First Interim shows the budget health of the District as of October 31.
 - iii. Revenues – COLA was projected at 2.9% but the First Interim shows 3.69%. Our Newcomer count has gone up, which means we get funds in addition to the COLA. The negative change looks like we lost money, but it's not, we just have carryover funds we didn't spend that can't be reported in this year.
 - iv. Expenditures/Other Financing Uses – we include the step/column adjustments for all staff, benefits, salaries, books and supplies, operating expenditures. These show what we spend our money on and what we think we'll spend in the future.
 - v. Net Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance – our deficit will shrink over years as a result of some reductions in spending, and increase in revenue.
 - vi. Fund Balance – important to look at the breakdown of restricted vs. unrestricted.

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- vii. The most important is the final line that shows we will have the reserves for this year and the following two years – YES, YES, YES!
 - viii. Last year, we eliminated COVID dollars because they ran out, now the District is assessing programs and their efficiency, success, etc. Nothing has been decided for layoffs come March. The primary goal has been to find new revenue sources.
- 4. Community-wide Budget Education Discussion
 - a. Generating revenue - there will hopefully be more good news at our next meeting on 3/10/25.
 - b. Feedback Request – we do a lot of great things, but only the bad things get picked up in mainstream communications. How do we get our good news to the greater community, especially about our operations? Teachers give students/parents good news about the student and school, but not much about Districtwide news.
 - i. Our NUSD Annual Report shows highlights. Is this the best way to send out our good news?
 - 1. Feedback: Attend Rotary, Chamber, Margaret Todd. Actively talk about what's in the Annual Report
 - 2. Feedback: Target individuals, not necessarily government entities, who don't see the positive firsthand (i.e. those without children or grandchildren)
 - 3. Feedback: Help people understand that we don't have enough, and here's how they can help us get more (Parcel Tax increase for example). Most groups want to say "yes" you just have to give them a reason.
 - 4. Feedback/Question: How often does Director of Communications push out information on Social Media/Novato in the Know? As much as possible.
 - 5. Feedback: The City and NUSD used to do a joint meeting.
 - 6. Feedback: Include in Community Cornerstone from Dr. Smith
 - 7. Feedback: Send out Annual Report to community partners for them to send out as well.
- 5. Budget Development Calendar
 - a. This will be brought to the March 10 meeting, pending the 2025-2026 Board Meeting schedule. Once the Board Meeting schedule is set, the Budget Development Calendar will be brought to the Board and Budget Advisory Committee.
- 6. Questions / Comments
 - a. None
- 7. Adjournment

Upcoming Meeting
March 10, 2025

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