

MEETING MINUTES
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: March 14, 2018

TIME: 3:45 pm

LOCATION: CSO Boardroom

MINUTES ADOPTED: April 25, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Posedel, Chris Simenstad, Donna Romberger, Doug Marquand, John Bartolome, Rachel Kertz, Patty Gessner, Paul Tuohy, Erik Schoengart, Lee Chretien, Glenn Dennis, Kevin Kerr, Paul Tuohy, Pamela Harlem, Patty Gessner, Tania Morales, Elena McKenna, Sheila Barone, John Gilluly, John Coffrini, Katy Dunlap, Denise Corrado

Second Interim

Doug presented Second Interim PowerPoint.

Rachel pointed out that the budget increased in Other Services and asked for an example of those items budgeted there? Increase to utilities, copier overages.....

Lee noticed that there was \$500K more in restricted Fund 40, John B said that the California Clean Energy Act money came in.

Erik mentioned that it would be very helpful if in the MYP slide that the prior year actuals would allow the audience to really see the changes in the budget. Doug said that we would add it and email out to the committee.

John G asked why only increase for step and column and not a salary increase? Doug answered for two reasons, it would dip into the reserves and the CSO was not directed by the Board to do so. John G also asked how other districts similar to ours are dealing with the PERS/STRS increases. Doug answered one way is that they are increasing class sizes, staff reductions and cuts in other areas.

Lee went back and reviewed budgets starting in 13-14 and compared projected deficit spending to actual deficit spending. The budget is like a rollercoaster ride, it's emotional, not actual. We are making forecast decisions. John B thanked Lee for his comments, but we are required to budget that way. Lee acknowledged the process and understands it's not so much for the present but the 2nd and 3rd years out. Don't make changes today for 3rd year out. It's important to stay focused on the now and near future, the budget is a moving target. Chris agreed that we need to be more conservative in some years, but can we get to a place where we can be more accurate with our budget cuts?

John B would like to get us to a place where we are within a 2% variance of the current budget to actuals. Rachel stated that even so, we are still deficit spending.

Some committee members felt it is a good time to use this budget as a budget refinement exercise implementing different scenarios.

Staffing

Doug handed out and reviewed staffing data. Denise would like Madrone to be added to the “Class Size Allocation” worksheet, she feels it is important for the Board to know what’s happening at Madrone. Doug acknowledged her request and Business Services will send out the revised worksheet, the Board has not reviewed these documents.

Denise wants the Board to also know that Madrone has more kids, fewer sections, larger classes. Tania added that she has more kids in the office doing APEX. Katy mentioned that the District is looking into doing APEX differently, Novato is using a new program that does not require as much teacher/staff oversight.

Some committee members asked how other districts are accommodating budget changes. Katy mentioned some districts are lowering graduation unit requirements. In the case of PE, some districts allow students who play 3 sports to use that in exchange for a unit.

John G. asked if the District was still authenticating student addresses. Doug said the process is still in place, and there is a job posted in Student Enrollment for a Secretary 1 that will be overseeing the process. Chris S. mentioned that the process at SRHS for registering for classes next year has changed. Once the counselor meets with the students a letter is sent home and they have to return that form with the parent signature, some kids seemed worried about that. Those students are the ones to watch, they are most likely not living in the home of the address they provided. Katy added that North Bay Security and Mike Gardner are doing an excellent job of addressing truancy which is very high with students who live out of the district. Chris S. is very happy to see this process is working.

Board/Superintendent Update

Rachel reviewed the Solar Study Session before the March 12th Board Meeting. It was well attended. The overall financial savings is not as much as people would think, \$3M over 25 years, but the carbon footprint is why we would take that route. One option is a long-term lease agreement without any upfront cost to the District. The District purchases solar-generated electricity at below-market rates. There is a lease to own option in most agreements. In addition, the Board is looking into adopting a policy around naming facilities whether it be a donation, volunteerism, dedicated community member etc.

Additions

Glenn shared an email from Brett Arndt, ELD Teacher at SRHS. Brett was sharing his feelings concerning how the District handles the transition and implementation of curriculum concerning newcomers.

Future agenda items

- The ratio of Admin/Counseling to Students
- ELD Program Budget

General Public Comment None

Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm
