



# Budget Development and Input Committee Meeting Minutes

## April 30, 2024; 1:00 p.m.

### Central Administration Office – Board Room

Present: Brent Seaks (chair), Jason Rodakowski, Superintendent Marcus Lewton, Business Manager Stephanie Hunter, Naomi Obrigewitch, and Sarah Trustem

Absent: Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris

Called to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chair Brent Seaks.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda Items – No additions or deletions to the agenda.

Old Business – No Old Business was reported.

#### New Business

- **2022-2023 and 2024-2024 Fiscal Year updates** - Business Manager Hunter reported the 2022-2023 general fund had an ending fund balance of \$7,962,202. \$1,700,000 of this balance from ESSER funds and oil and gas revenue will be moved to the building funds after Dickinson Public Schools sells bonds for the new high school. This will leave a general fund balance of \$6,262,202. The building fund 2022-2023 ending fund balance was \$9,847,313.
- **2024-2025 Preliminary General Fund Budget estimate** – Business Manager Hunter estimates the general fund will have approximately \$60,768,730 in revenue. This estimate includes the increase of State Foundation Aid funding to 4%. The fall of 2023-2024 had an increased ADM of approximately 117 students. April 2024 enrollment is trending an additional 50 students. The 2023-2024 mill levy rate increase from \$165,561 to \$168,697 is also included in the estimated revenue budget. The expense budget is estimated at \$60,675,992, which includes the purchase of two buses and \$500,000 contingency.
- **2024-2025 Staffing update** – Dr. Lewton gave a brief update on the staffing for 2024-2025 fiscal year. Dr. Lewton stated there are currently 16 open certified positions and 24 classified positions. Some of these positions have been open since the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
- **2024-2025 Classified Wages** – Business Manager reviewed five wage increase options for recommendation to the board. Starting January 2024, the district's NDPERS contribution increased by 1%. This 24-25 salary increase scenarios have an estimated 16% health insurance increase figured into the options. Business Manager Hunter has accounted for all open positions as being filled. The options proposed were:
  - Option 1 = \$.25 on the base and one step
  - Option 2 = \$.50 on the base and one step

- Option 3 = \$.50 on the base and one step for categories 1-11 and \$.75 on the base and one step for categories A1-A11
- Option 4 = \$.75 on the base and one step
- Option 5 = \$.75 on the base and one step for categories 1-11 and \$1 on the base and one step for categories A1-A11

**The committee discussed the financial implications and market rates for each category of each option and is recommending option 5 to the board.**

- **2025 North Dakota Public Employee Retirement Service update** – On January 1, 2025, NDPERS is moving to a Defined Contribution Plan for all new NDPERS qualifying employees. Existing NDPERS employees will remain on the current Defined Benefit Plan. The Defined Contribution Plan has a mandatory 4% employee contribution and 5.26% employer contribution with an optional 3% contribution by the employee to either the defined contribution plan or the NDPERS 457 DC plan with a 3% employer match. New NDPERS employees will have 30 days to elect the additional 3% contribution.
- **2023 Bond Sales and Construction Loan update** – Business Manager Hunter stated the total of funds available for bond projects is approximately \$4,700,000 from carry over and the recent sale of three district properties. Dickinson Public Schools expects an additional \$2,100,000 to be available from the increase in oil and gas revenue and property taxes over the next two years. The total of the bond projects is \$76,000,000. Dickinson Public Schools will go to market for the sale of \$69,000,000 in bonds by October. Dickinson Public Schools has also applied for a low interest rate construction loan through the Department of Public Instruction that could generate a savings for DPS taxpayers.
- **2024 Proposed Prohibit Property Tax Ballot Measure update** – The proposed constitutional ballot measure bans taxes based on assessed value of property. The measure does not include taxes to pay for bonded debt approved by taxpayers. The sponsors of the property tax reform have until June 29, 2024, to obtain 31,164 signatures to get the measure placed on the ballot. This measure would have a significant financial impact on Dickinson Public Schools.

**Other – No other business.**

**Adjournment** - At 2:50 p.m., Chair Seaks declared the meeting adjourned.