



Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2017; 1:45 p.m.
Central Administration Office – Board Room

Present: Board Vice President Brent Seaks (Chair), Board President Sarah Ricks, Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, and Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep. Also present was Mrs. Twila Petersen.

Called to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:47 p.m. by Chair Brent Seaks.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda Items – Chair Seaks requested to add under “New Business” a conversation regarding resources for the new Eureka Math curriculum.

Old Business

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade Five New Positions – Assistant Superintendent Reep reported that the administration is keeping track of the kindergarten enrollment. The original prediction was 347. To date, 248 students have pre-registered for kindergarten. Using this number and a two-year average of the birth rates, he projected that the kindergarten enrollment would be 370. Previously, administration had asked the Budget Committee to consider two additional kindergarten teachers. With this newest kindergarten enrollment projection, the administration would like to request some flexibility to consider an 18th section of kindergarten. At 18 sections, the classrooms would be 20 students which is the Board’s recommended kindergarten classroom size. The administration has met with the elementary principals to consider the placement of the additional kindergarten sections.

Superintendent Sullivan noted that there is potential for increased enrollment at the Early Childhood Center (ECC). He asked for flexibility to be able to review a potential added teacher at ECC. Chair Seaks inquired if there is a threshold where an additional teacher would be needed. Assistant Superintendent Reep responded that his numbers and count are fairly reliable. After May 25, another assessment of the enrollment will be done. If the new number for kindergarten is 359 or 382 then a decision will be made to get another classroom ready or to wait until August and, if need be, add another classroom at that time. Chair Seaks inquired when Berg Elementary would be utilized. Superintendent Sullivan responded in the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Reep explained there is room at Lincoln and Jefferson Elementary schools without opening Berg Elementary. Chair Seaks appreciated the diligent research and realized the numbers are just projections. Consensus was to provide the requested flexibility.

Superintendent Sullivan said that RSP Consulting has been in contact regarding setting up a meeting next week to discuss the boundary analysis.

2017-2018 Classified Staff Salaries – Assistant Superintendent Reep reported he had done some work on the option provided by Vice President Seaks. He did compute the CPI from January to January and it came in at 2.5%. Last fall it was 2.1%. Mr. Reep applied some experience factors similar to Badlands Ministries and grouped them into five groups by years of service. The total cost was \$275,754 with the existing staff (option 1). Mr. Reep also looked at some other options, such as a flat percentage. The last option he considered was similar to last year. Using the last option, it

came within \$2,000 of the first option. Mr. Reep recommended the last option. Administrative recommendation was to freeze the beginning classified staff salaries and also freeze the part-time RASP employee salaries. The grant funding and non-grant funding for the RASP program is over spent every year. Chair Seaks appreciated the work and research and understood the reason for the freeze. Mrs. Ricks concurred especially with the potential financial situation of the District. Mr. Reep added that the District would still have competitive wages.

New Business

Teacher on Special Assignment – Superintendent Sullivan explained the District has advertised for a teacher on special assignment (TOSA) for Prairie Rose Elementary and there has been one application received. Dr. Sullivan said there is still a need for TOSA at three of the other schools. He requested the flexibility to hire TOSAs for Jefferson Elementary and Lincoln Elementary. He noted with the District having to hire two more teachers that put a strain on the funding. Mr. Reep said the District would be deficit spending for a few years. Chair Seaks knew there was no perfect amount to deficit spend and finding the level of comfort will be difficult. Dr. Sullivan wanted the Board members to be aware of the situation. Consensus was to provide the flexibility for additional teacher(s) on special assignment, if the funding was available.

Other –

Resources for the Eureka Math Curriculum – Chair Seaks requested this topic for discussion due to the new mathematics curriculum and wanting it to be successful. He wanted to make sure the teachers in the buildings had the resources they needed, even if it meant adding another copy machine at those buildings, so that the teachers were not having to make copies on weekends. He asked if there could be research done on how much copiers would cost. Mr. Reep responded that the copiers in the district are on a five-year replacement rotation. Each building has an industrial strength copier plus additional copiers and printers. It was his opinion there are enough copy machines in the buildings, unless they are creating curriculum. He was pleased to hear the teachers talked about the workbooks as part of the Eureka Math program. He would rather the District spend the money buying the workbook and the manuals that go with them. Mrs. Ricks inquired regarding the copying of the exit tickets for every student. Mr. Reep responded that could be done through the District's Media Center. A request is put in and then printed in the Media Center and returned to the teacher and is budgeted out of the printing budget. Chair Seaks thanked Mr. Reep for the explanation and appreciated the comment about the workbooks with the pages included. He knew there were growing pains and wanted to make sure the new curriculum was supported, even if it would mean finding a way to getting additional printing completed.

Adjournment - At 2:18 p.m., Chair Seaks declared the meeting adjourned.