



Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2016; Noon

Central Administration Office – Board Room

Present: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Board Member Leslie Ross and Board Member Sarah Ricks and Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep. Others present: Mrs. Fern Pokorny, Uniserv Director @NDEA.

Called to Order – The meeting was called to order at Noon by Chair Leslie Ross.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda Items – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Old Business

Classified Salaries – Mr. Reep stated that after the discussion at the last meeting the budget committee directed the administration to work up a variety of models for classified salaries. There were four models presented by Mr. Reep, two using a flat rate increase varying by category and two using a percentage increase. All four models fall within the \$300,000 to \$385,000 range set in the budget and while not as generous as last year's increase the administration feels the four proposed models are all competitive enough to attract new employees and retain current employees. Mr. Reep explained the various models and after discussion the Budget Committee agreed to support Model 1, which is the most aggressive.

Harlow's Bus Contract – Mr. Reep reported that he and Dr. Sullivan met with Harlows' leadership team and indicated that the DPSD is interested in continuing to do business with Harlows. Harlows verbally proposed a seven year agreement and after discussion and input from Dr. Sullivan and Mr. Reep they are going to draw up a draft contract, which has not yet been received. Mr. Reep stated that the DPSD will review their offer and if necessary propose a counter offer. He indicated that Harlows has been a good partner and he feels that they will be able to come to an agreement and then they will bring the proposal back to the committee. Mr. Reep stated that he has marked \$250,000 for busing, but this includes the cost of city busing which has grown from four routes to nine. City busing has become the most expensive part of the transportation budget. The budget committee recommended continuing negotiations with Harlows.

New Business

Four K-4 Teachers – Mr. Reep reported that the Administration is recommending adding one kindergarten teacher bringing the total sections of kindergarteners to 16. Kindergarten registration is next week after which they will have a better idea of enrollment numbers. Also a 2nd and 4th grade teacher will need to be added at Prairie Ross and a 3rd grade teacher at Jefferson. The district may also have to add a Learning Disabilities instructor. Mr. Reep stated he has marked \$260,000 of the budget for new teachers. The budget committee stated they will support the hiring of four additional teachers and a Learning Disabilities instructor.

Roosevelt Boiler Replacement – Mr. Reep reported that the boiler inspector stated that the Roosevelt boiler is near the end of its life expectancy. He would like to move forward to bid the replacement of the boiler. If the bid is awarded in March, construction could be started May 30 and completed by July 29. The committee agreed that Mr. Reep move forward to bid the new boiler.

Needs Assessment – Dr. Sullivan stated that he wanted to make the committee aware of the needs assessment process. He stated that the Cabinet is in the process of evaluating needs and funding priorities and the items will be reviewed by the Cabinet again on February 8th and then they will be brought before the committee.

Consideration of Extended contracts for ECC Summer Transition Staff – Mr. Reep stated that in a conversation with Dot Martinson the extension of the contracts for two ECC Summer Transition Staff was discussed. The ECC Summer Transition staff does testing and transitional activities for students coming into the elementary schools. The cost to add a total of 14 days to two teachers’ contracts would be \$2,800. The administration felt it would be worth the extra cost to use existing teaching staff instead of hiring someone at an hourly rate, as it is difficult to find people to fill those positions. The budget committee recommended going ahead with the extended contracts for ECC Summer Transition Staff.

Sheri’s 2016-2017 Contract – Mr. Reep stated that Sheri Twist is the Special Education Coordinator and she has a teaching contract and 5 additional days and an administration stipend to do additional work for the district in Special Education. It has come to the administration’s attention that an extra five days is not enough and they have recommended that another five days be added to Sheri’s contract for a total of 10 extra days at an additional cost of \$1800.00. At this point, the extra 5 days would just be for the 2016 – 2017 contract. The Budget Committee stated they would support the extra 5 days for Sheri’s contract.

Other – There was no other business to discuss.

Adjournment – Chair Ross adjourned the meeting at 12:45.