



The Helena Public Schools educate, engage, and empower each student to maximize his or her individual potential with the knowledge, skills and character essential to being a responsible citizen and life-long learner.

Board of Trustees – Budget and Programs Committee

Friday, May 8, 2020 – 12:00pm

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Committee:

Jeff Hindoién, Committee Chair
John McEwen, Committee Member
Sarah Sullivan, Committee Member

Others:

Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Janelle Mickelson, Business Services Administrator
Stacy Collette, Human Resources Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair, Jeff Hindoién, called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The minutes from the March 6, 2020, committee meeting were approved with requested changes.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Year-to-Date Budget

Ms. Mickelson provided the committee with the most recent update of the budget, which included 3% remaining in the elementary fund, 7% in the high school fund, and 4% in the tuition fund. She added buildings' budgets have been transferred into the interlocal fund, so those funds will be available the next fiscal year.

B. Negotiations Update

Dr. Ream told the committee a second remote negotiations session had been May 7. He voiced his appreciation for the amount of time Stacy Collette and Janelle Mickelson put into the presentation. Ms. Collette added Helena Education Association (HEA) will be negotiating language items separately from the economic piece. In terms of salaries/pay, Ms. Collette state that HEA had made a proposal but to fully understand the immediate and long term costs, this proposal would need to be costed-out in in concert with HEA.

Mr. Hindoien asked if the last negotiations session resulted in a relative agreement on the fiscal truth. Dr. Ream answered there had been no questioning of figures at the most recent meeting, and there had been a consensus on fiscal amounts. He added any increase in salary would need be paid from the interlocal, and warned of budgeting a recurring cost from a non-recurring source.

Mr. Hindoien referenced the staff audit, specifically noting that staff would be forced to consider a reduction in force to pay for an increase in salaries. He added that the healthy reserve in the health care fund may result in savings for staff and asked if that had been mentioned in negotiations. Ms. Collette responded the district had used the health care fund in the past, and it certainly could be a point of discussion.

Ms. Sullivan asked for the impact of levies. Ms. Mickelson answered it was \$300,000 for the elementary levy and \$200,000 for the high school levy. She continued the model had been recalculated to include the levies. Ms. Sullivan voiced her appreciation for the professionalism of everyone involved.

C. Multi-Year Budget Projection Update

Dr. Ream told the committee that very few adjustments have been needed within the projections; they have provided a foundation to apply “what if” scenarios. He continued as soon as the district knew the levies passed, Ms. Mickelson projected the impact for the next five years. An additional adjustment to the projections was staffing projections assuming only step movement for the next three years. Dr. Ream continued Ms. Mickelson’s model still included a reduction in full-time employees (FTE) at the high school level.

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Committee members and district staff voiced their appreciation to Jeff Hindoien for his service on the board of trustees, specifically for his leadership as Chair of the Budget & Programs Committee.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hindoien adjourned the meeting at 12:50pm.