

Minutes

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Committee Presiding Officer Gaffney called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and a roll check confirmed that a quorum was present and that Jill Franko had not yet arrived.

Ms. Franko arrived at 7:08 pm.

The following members were present:

Dave Dotterer
Jeff Pelger
Ann Gaffney
Russell Hatch
Rebecca Dyson

Jill Franko
Dan Ruby
Kristin Milligan
Chris Chambers
Eva Skuratowicz

Absent were: none

District Administrators present:

Superintendent Joseph Hattrick
Director of Business Services Sherry Ely
Executive Director of Operations Steve Mitzel
Director of Student Services April Harrison

2. Review Committee Questions / Discuss Budget

Presiding Officer Gaffney reviewed the role of the budget committee, and Director Dyson stated the goal of the meeting: to approve the budget.

Superintendent Hattrick issued a revised Budget Message and clarified the collaborative process for developing the proposed budget, including the overarching strategies within the Integrated Guidance Application.

Director of Business Services, Sherry Ely responded to the questions the budget committee submitted after the first meeting. Highlights included:

- A loan to address a \$5 million budgeting shortfall caused by years of poor accounting practices.
- A multi-year plan to right-size our budget by amortizing the loan to allow for realistic payments, creating an accurate budget, staffing based on enrollment, and establishing a process for ongoing monitoring.
- Review of YAAL expenditures and confirmation of fair spending practices between extracurricular activities and sports.
- Improved business office practices by involving the leadership team in the budgeting process for a more accurate accounting of expenditure allocations, creating fund-specific bank

accounts, ensuring monthly reconciliation by a trained business office staff member, conducting a three-person review of the bank statements, utilizing expenditure and revenue projection reports along with forecasting tools, and continuing to have OASBO review the work of the business services director.

- The projected operating budget presents a more realistic outlook by incorporating an ending fund balance, increased sub costs, and a rise in software expenses.
- The systems that helped save the district \$3 million in 2024-25 and that will continue into 2025-26 include reduced P-card distribution, evaluating positions after resignation, streamlined field trip processes with 70% reimbursement from the state, improved coding, and capturing expenditures in the current school year.
- Discussions regarding budgeting variances included adequate budgeting for 2025-26, an increase in sub costs in both the 1000 and 2000 functions, an increase in COLA and health care premiums, budgeting for grant indirect charges, efficiencies in maintenance fees and special education, and an increase in Community Services due to reduced Title I funding.

Additional discussions included:

- Messaging effective research for mixed-grade classrooms.
- Realistic timeline for balancing the budget after the loan.
- Affirming that the budget reflects a good balance of staff reductions in the first years of the budgeting overhaul.
- Reviewing the language of the Budget Resolution.

3. Receive Public Comment

Presiding Officer Gaffney called for public comment, and one audience member expressed excitement for the proposed 2025-26 budget.

4. Budget Approval

Presiding Officer Gaffney called for a motion to approve the proposed 2025.2026 budget.

- ❖ Mr. Dotterrer moved to approve the 2025-2026 Budget as expressed in Resolution No. 2024.2024 B-2 Adopting the 20205.2026 Budget. Mr. Chambers seconded the motion. Roll call confirmed that the motion carried by unanimous vote of the budget committee.

Roll Call: Yes Vote – Mr. Chambers, Mr. Dotterrer, Mr. Hatch, Ms. Gaffney, Ms. Skuratowicz, Mr. Ruby, Ms. Franko, Mr. Pelger, Ms. Dyson, and Ms. Milligan.

5. Preview Next Steps

Once the budget committee has approved the budget, its work is finished. The district will then publish a summary of the budget (Form ED1) in the local newspaper, announcing the Budget Hearing on June 12, 2025, at 7 PM. A resolution to approve the budget and allocate appropriations will be presented to the school board for adoption during the regular session board meeting on June 12, 2025.

6. Adjourn

Presiding Officer Gaffney adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.