



**Ontario School District 8C
Budget Committee of the Board of Directors
May 4th 2026, at 5:00 PM at the Ontario School District Board Room**

This meeting was broadcasted via zoom to the public, the Budget Committee met in person at the Ontario School District Boardroom with an audience of about 10

Board Members Present:

Abby Apodaca
Mike Blackaby
Jenna Mejia
Lisa Reeser
Bret Uptmor

Budget Members Present:

Barb Higinbotham
Dan Wilken
Eddie Melendrez
Blanca Rodriguez

Administrators in Attendance:

Superintendent Nicole Albisu
Director of Nutrition Pam Suyematsu
Public Relations and Communication Coordinator Taryn Smith
Director of Student Services Melissa Williams
Director of Personnel Eric Norton
Director of Federal Programs Anabel Ortiz-Chavolla
Director of Finance Devin Collins
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Andrea Salazar

Call to Order/Welcome to Visitors

Chair Uptmor opens the Budget hearing, and welcomes everyone in the room and on Zoom.
Director Blackaby motions to nominate Eddie Melendrez to be the Budget Committee Chair; Director Mejia seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Vice-Chair Apodaca votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Rodriguez votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Melendrez votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Higinbotham votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Wilken votes yes.



Chair of the Budget Committee Eddie Melendrez moves the meeting to Superintendent Albisu and the Director of Finance Devin Collins to begin the hearing. Superintendent Albisu reads the district's budget message; some of the key points are rate structures that will help with rising PERS rates. Also using building-based support for students as a foundation metric for staff and students. The thought when constructing the budget message is ensuring student and staff safety so that everyone can focus on the instruction being given. The Director of Finance Devin Collins shares the proposed budget for 2026-2027 and highlights some of the changes. A note from the Director of Finance, Devin Collins, states that the State of Oregon is facing declining enrollment. Many school districts in Oregon are having to make major budget cuts and are in large deficits. After sharing the ADM funding the district has received, it shows how our enrollment is decreasing compared to previous school years. Our biggest expenditure is staff salaries and benefits; Director of Finance Devin Collins states the goal is to make sure we are using grant funding in the right spots, and that our reserve amount is healthy. Superintendent Albisu and Director of Finance Devin Collins state that there are ESSER dollars that are moving around in order for our reserves to be fully utilized. The year 2027 is also the last year of our bond; we are hoping to pass another bond next year, so that we can continue to work on school buildings. Director of Finance Devin Collins states that the district is healthy and is not seeing us needing to dip into our ending fund balance. The adjustments that will be made with our grants, reserves, and PERS will help preserve our budget.

After some more discussion with the budget committee members and the Board, Chair Uptmor makes a motion to approve the 2026-2027 proposed budget Budget Committee Member Rodriguez seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Vice-Chair Apodaca votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Rodriguez votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Melendrez votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Higinbotham votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Wilken votes yes.

Chair of the Budget Committee Eddie Melendrez states the 2026-2027 proposed budget for the Ontario School District has been approved. Chair of the Budget Committee Eddie Melendrez entertains a motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing. Director Mejia makes a motion to adjourn, Vice-Chair Apodaca seconds the motion.

Chair Uptmor votes yes.
Vice-Chair Apodaca votes yes.
Director Blackaby votes yes.
Director Mejia votes yes.
Director Reeser votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Rodriguez votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Melendrez votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Higinbotham votes yes.
Budget Committee Member Wilken votes yes.



Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM

Chairman

Clerk