

Three Rivers School District  
8550 New Hope Road  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97527

5/17/2023

### **Budget Committee Meeting #1 – 5/17/23**

The Three Rivers School District Budget Committee met for their 2023-2024 organizational meeting in the school district board room at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Oregon 97527.

**Budget  
Committee  
Met**

**Members Present:**

Jennifer Johnstun - Board Chairperson  
Jenn Searle - Board Member  
Rich Halsted - Board Member  
Kevin Marr - Budget Committee Member  
Jennifer Vetter - Budget Committee Member  
Bill Ertel - Budget Committee Member

**Present**

**Members Absent:**

Jamie Wright – Board Member, Susan Fischer-Maki – Board Vice Chairperson

**Absent**

Also Present: Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent; Lisa Cross, Accounting Manager; Stephanie Allen Hart, Director of Special Education; Casey Alderson, Deputy Superintendent/Director of Human Resources, Jessica Durrant, Director of Curriculum.

**Also Present**

Board Chair Jennifer Johnstun called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Call to Order**

Board Chair Jennifer Johnstun called for a nomination for the Budget Committee Chairperson. Budget Member Kevin Marr nominated Board Member Rich Halsted. The motion was seconded by Board Member Bill Ertel. Motion passed unanimously.

**Election of  
Chairperson**

Budget Chair Rich Halsted called for a nomination of the Budget Committee Vice Chair. Budget member Kevin Marr nominated Board Member Bill Ertel. Motion was seconded by Budget Member Jennifer Vetter. Motion passed unanimously.

**Election of  
Vice Chair**

Superintendent Valenzuela delivered the budget message as submitted in the Proposed Budget. Superintendent Valenzuela highlighted on the districts goals of having students that are “life-ready learners”, providing a culture of care for students and staff, creating a community centered school culture with family involvement that is safe and secure. These priorities are what drives the budgetary process.

**Budget  
Message**

Accounting Manager, Lisa Cross gave a legislative update about the current happenings at the capital. Presently a lack of attendees at the senate chamber are causing an inability to form a quorum, making it impossible to convene a session or pass any bills, but do have until June 25 to pass the state budget. The House of Ways and Means did pass the State School fund budget at 9.9 billion, which is a floor for k-12 funding, because of the increase in the revenue forecast and increase in tax revenues, could provide additional funding in the State School fund. Accounting Manager Lisa Cross reviewed some of the senate bills that would have an effect on the district if passed. She then reviewed the budget process and how it all starts with the districts core values, along with community engagement and student success.

**Additional  
Information**

Accounting Manager, Lisa Cross reviewed considerations for the 2023-24 budget, including an increase to property/liability insurance and utilities, realization of a 200-student loss since COVID in the State School Fund formula and targeting a 6.5% end of the year reserve to help get the district through the biennium. She discussed the different General Fund revenues and where those funds come from along with what an increase to the current \$9.9 billion budget would look like for the district. Accounting Manager, Lisa Cross then explained the breakdown of the General Fund Expenditures with 65% being employee salary & employer cost. She reviewed Special Revenues & Expenditures that include six different federal grants, including ESSER II & III, High School Success, Title I, ESSA and SIA. She covered debt service & capital projects planned for the upcoming school year, which include a new roof at IVHS, replacement trash compactor at HVHS and boiler upgrade at Fort Vannoy. Accounting Manager, Lisa Cross then answered questions that were asked by budget members prior to the budget meeting. Accounting Manager, Lisa Cross asked Director Jessica Durrant to elaborate on if there are metrics that support outcome for the dollars spent for professional development in Title IIA and professional learning communities? Director, Jessica Durrant gave examples of the current professional development metrics such as pre and post self-assessments for staff showing evidence of learning and student metrics will be set with the district and ODE.

No public comments were submitted prior to the meeting.

Budget Vice Chair, Bill Ertel asked for clarification about how the construction excise tax work and Accounting Manager, Lisa Cross informed him that it's based on square footage of new construction commercial and residential.

## **Committee Questions**

Budget Member Kevin Marr asked about SOSA being brought back under the district umbrella and Superintendent, Valenzuela explained that SOSA was originally created to fill the online schooling gap, but then COVID happened and now it's more beneficial to have SOSA in-district.

Budget Member Kevin Marr asked how students or staff are identified with having mental problems and needing help? Director, Stephanie Allen-Hart responded with Options being available and providing support.

Budget Member, Marr asked about pre k programing within the district. Superintendent Valenzuela responded with working different partnerships with pre-k organizations to enhance programing at different locations throughout the district but are not currently administering a pre-k program.

Budget Member, Marr asked if about the resource officer for safety and where do those funds go? Superintendent Valenzuela answered with those funds go to that one officer and have a contract with Jo. Co. Sherriff and is something the district could not do without.

Budget Vice Chair, Bill Ertel made comment about the high school graduation rate and congratulated the district on such high rates.

Budget Member, Jennifer Vetter asked about any financial trending due to the four-day week. Superintendent, Valenzuela said because of COVID and timing of going to the four-day week this information will be available in the coming year. It will be a comparison between what a 4-day week and 5 day week would look like to provide real numbers. Budget Member, Vetter asked about the partnership with Options. Superintendent, Valenzuela confirmed that the district does contract with Options.

Budget Member, Kevin Marr made a motion to approve the budget. "I move that the Three Rivers School District budget committee approve the proposed budget as presented and approve taxes for the 2023-2024 fiscal year at the rate of \$3.7262 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operating purposes." Board Chair, Jennifer Johnstun seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously. 2023 – 2024 budget approved.

**Motion to  
approve**

Meeting Adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

**Adjourned**

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Beck  
Recording Secretary