

**BUDGET COMMITTEE LISTENING SESSION WORKSHOP  
BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 48  
BEAVERTON HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

Budget Committee Listening Session Workshop

April 21, 2011

The Budget Committee of the Beaverton School District conducted a Budget Listening Session Workshop at Sunset High School on April 21, 2011 at 6:35 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Karen Cunningham  
Tom Quillin  
Sarah Smith  
LeeAnn Larsen  
Lisa Shultz  
Mary Vanderweele  
Jeff Hicks

**Budget Committee Members Present:**

Brett Baker  
Dave Bouchard  
Carrie Anderson  
Carmin Ruiz  
John Burns  
Cameron Irtifa

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Dave Bouchard  
Jerry Colonna

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Dave Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and welcomed everyone. Bouchard explained the Listening Session process. He then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Colonna. The Superintendent introduced Dr. Michael Eisenberg from the University of Washington, who came to speak. He then shared the three step Budget process and commented on the financial times we are all facing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dave Bouchard

Testimony was taken from staff and community members.

**LISTENING SESSIONS IN CLASSROOMS**

Budget Committee  
Members and Central  
Office Administrators

Budget Committee members and Central Office Administrators then broke out into small group sessions to hear more staff and public comment. (See attached for small group notes.)

**CLOSING COMMENTS AND NEXT STEPS**

Tom Quillin

Tom Quillin brought the group back into session for closing comments. He thanked everyone for being a part of the process and giving their valuable input.

The Budget Committee Listening Session Workshop adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Dave Bouchard  
Budget Committee Chair

Debby Wohlmutter  
Recording Secretary

## **Budget Listening Session**

**April 21, 2011**

Beaverton High School

Carrie Anderson

*Prepared by Steve Langford*

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1) **Librarians and IB requirements**

IB Program needs a librarian. Is this a requirement for accreditation?  
The value of the IB diploma is important. Librarian important to maintaining the IB program. Response from District has not been clear. Need to ask HR to confirm that the librarian is a requirement for IB accreditation.

2) **ESL Program**

Need an ESL immersion program. Example shared of students coming in from abroad.

3) **Transitions program**

Why do we need transportation for transitions program? There are kids transitioning to group home. Keep transitions program for kids who will not be transitioning to group home.

4) **Impact of Media Specialist reductions**

- a) Access to library for students
- b) Education – lost support for teachers, weeding of library, specialized functions
- c) Assistance – interactions and support for students and teachers

5) **Library program**

Please cut school days in lieu of cutting programs. Internet safety instruction would be lost. Internet safety instruction is required by law. Research and communications skills are also taught by librarians. What is the plan for keeping the libraries open before, during, and after school? What barriers would we place in front of students by closing the libraries? What is the cost of restoring the program at a later date?

6) **Staff input**

A teacher asked if unions have the best interest of students in mind?  
Example of cost savings ideas from teachers not moving forward.

7) **Golf**

Cutting golf will hurt student community. Cut days instead.

8) **Health Insurance**

Can staff play some health insurance costs to save programs?

- 9) **Golf**  
Coaches volunteered to not be compensated for post-season, but were not allowed to do so. This would have provided a cost savings. Sports are important for students. Cut 10% from every sport to save all sports.
- 10) **Librarians**  
Example of work done today with students
- a) Internet safety – 1<sup>st</sup> graders
  - b) Research project – 2<sup>nd</sup> graders – insects. Learning research model and process – connects to learning targets in classroom. Collaborates with teachers.
  - c) Internet safety – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders – social networking concepts
  - d) State Reports and floats – 4<sup>th</sup> graders – Research. Support for teachers – Bibliography example
  - e) Biographies – 5<sup>th</sup> graders – Research process. Resources for students and teachers.
- Teaching the core to kids daily. Collaboration would go away with ½ time. Saving the librarians are more important than buying new textbooks. The relationships are important.
- 11) **Terra Nova**  
The relationships are important. No textbooks are needed. Resources can be found online.
- 12) **Augmentative Communication Specialist**  
4,700 SPED students. Licensed Speech Language Pathologist. SPED instruction is important to SPED students. District runs risk of not meeting federally mandated laws. All IEP's ask if assistive technology was considered. There is great risk to not providing this service. Who will answer the question when the IEP is developed? We have an obligation to answer the question. How is it that a 100% cut was made to one aspect of SPED? Who will answer that question? Think about the outcomes for our kids who do not have a voice.
- 13) **Terra Nova**  
A student shared about experiences at Terra Nova. Terra Nova is a "Big Picture" school. Students have access to teachers. Individualized connection with advisors provides comfort. The connection with staff allows students to ask questions. Student shared how Terra Nova gave her confidence.
- 14) **SPED**  
Finding information about potential cuts in SPED has been difficult. Just learned of the SPED cuts. Cutting the most vulnerable students is a dis-service and goes against federally mandates. Heard rumors of combined SPED programs and this will not work. Money spent on education saves monies later on.

15) **SPED**

There have been drastic reductions over past three years. These cuts will be hard for SPED teachers. Not enough professional development for SPED teachers. No way to for SPED teachers to connect. Loss of SPED Assistive Technology Specialist and Augmentative Communication Specialist will have large impact on teachers. There is fear for the kids who will get lost. SPED teacher caseload will increase and service to SPED students will decrease. This will result in more behavioral issues.

16) **Media Specialists**

Relationships are important. Hope that the budget committee and board will look at other items that do not cut full programs. They need to look for ways to all share cutbacks rather than targeting specific programs. Look at travel, communication, cell phone stipends. Look above and beyond to find solutions. Budget committee needs to look for solutions with the least amount of impact on students.

April 21, 2011 – Listening Session at BHS  
Brett Baker and Vicki Lukich

-- A very supportive member of the BSD for many years, but has a concern about the new out-of-district transfer policy. Their 8<sup>th</sup> grade daughter has been accepted into a HS outside of the BSD and now she will not be able to go. In addition, because the BSD Option process is over, they cannot consider the BSD Options. He agrees the change in the transfer policy is the right thing to do, but concern over the short notice.

-- A husband and wife both very supportive of the district over many years. They want the Budget Committee to re-examine the debate about the librarians. They are willing to pay taxes to support the district to continue the excellent programs. Delighted that there is a levy coming up and look forward to the opportunity to affirm their support of the district. Librarians prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, school librarian uniquely trained to be the synthesizer and to help the students and the teachers, too. The librarian brings a synergy to the school. Studies show that the presence of having a professional librarian in the school has a significantly positive effect on the students. (He shared a handout with his comments.)

-- A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at WHS, played water polo and participated in swim team all four years. K-12 education is for the students. Eliminating entire sports like water polo and golf will destroy the entire community. In Oregon we have four leagues that have water polo so if we cut away Metro league the other leagues will likely collapse. Also, eliminating the water polo program will do away with any scholarship opportunities.

-- An 8<sup>th</sup> grader at ISB looking forward to playing water polo in HS explained that water polo is a tight-knit thing that keeps kids focused. Water polo gives you something fun to look forward to.

-- A senior at WHS, water polo programs are struggling to continue across Oregon. If there are no HS teams then there will be no club teams either.

-- Library media specialist: If they are reduced to .5 – they won't ever come back. Early in her career she was reduced to .5 and it did not work. The parents in the school started thinking that the library aide was the "real" librarian because she was there more. The Battle of the Books won't happen if the librarians are half-time. She gives up her lunch hour to help students with this competition. Then it won't happen in the West Metro area and then probably not at the state level either. She has been an employee of the district – classified and then certified. Has been a member of LSC, art literacy, PTO, boundary committee, etc. When you cut complete programs they don't come back. Look at higher ed and the number of remedial reading programs that colleges have had to offer.

-- Library media specialist: She supports teachers at the elementary level. Teachers are frantic – at her school, teachers depend on her to collect resources that support the

curriculum. She knows the curriculum and she knows the collection – teachers will not be able to access the information.

-- Media Specialists provide electronic resources as well. If the media specialist is gone, the time for that will be eliminated and students will be taught with whatever is in the classroom. There will not be supplemental resources. At a Title I school, the parents may not be able to take their kids to the public library.

-- A student explained that his school scores high on the state reading test but how will they be able to maintain that high percentage without the support of the librarians? To help students get the reading materials they need for classes or pleasure reading.

-- Students asked: Why do we have to get new math books when math has not changed? Couldn't we save money by just keeping the old books?

-- Librarians wear a lot of hats. Including checking out textbooks. Using the library as the textbook "warehouse" saves the district money. Librarians check textbooks in and out at the beginning and the end of the school year. We can look in the system and see if the book is elsewhere in the district where we can get the book and save some money.

Budget Committee Listening Session  
Dave Bouchard and Claire Hertz  
April 21, 2011

Mother of second grader at Montclair talked about going to have budget cuts and loss of days of school. There are big barriers to parents being able to help. Parents are not allowed to fundraise for staff time or to move social events after hours. Parents can't pay for salary. Are you willing to lobby to change some of the rules so parents can help pay for some of these losses instead of paying for fluff for the schools?

Parent clubs have been paying for music and PE equipment, and we would like to help pay for the lost instructional time.

Parents are allowed to pay for full day kindergarten. What's the difference of paying for extra days of schools? Beaverton could be putting pressure on the legislature.

The District is considering a special operating levy to help with future years.

The reality is someone has to be cut, how can we volunteer our time and money to help with the loss of instructional time?

There is a way to address this. The school principal can move supply dollars into salary budget, and then parent club can pay for supplies.

How do we take care of schools that don't have as much fundraising? Couldn't we pool the funds into the foundation and share across schools?

Parents would be willing to donate more if they knew it was going to instructional time.

A water polo student spoke, and said it's the objective of the Beaverton School District to have the best education for their students. There are hard economic times, and it makes it difficult. There are also social aspects of school. We keep kids interested in school through after school activities. It helps students stay interested in classroom activities and higher achievement.

Why aren't we going just 10% across the board? It seems there is an inequity in types of sports. We could still involve the same number of kids if we could continue to work on their goal of being an OSAA sport.

Water polo is our passion. We are practicing 15 hours per week out of season. Why would the district support baseball or football more than water polo? Deciding to join a team sport helped me focus on my schooling. Why can't you reduce in other sports?

Being on the team was like having another family. It did wonders with my social life and I had friends in my classes. It's good for my health. Water polo has helped me tremendously. Students are depending on these sports to get scholarships. It helps us try harder at school and

get better grades. It's a big part of our lives. We want to play in college. If it's removed as a school sport it will affect all of us in having a team. It would be hard to fund raise all the money.

Is it really worth cutting the sports when it's not much money to cover the whole amount that is needed?

In our building special education has been cut. I have lost .5 instructional assistant and .5 special ed classroom teacher. Not once has the special education or district administrator been in my classroom. I would like more of a voice. It's the kids that don't have a voice. Two kids that just came in this week are homeless. I worry about these kids. We can't hang this budget on special education kids.

I don't see full buses coming into my school. Couldn't we save there?

Buying new text books every year – fill out workbooks – why aren't we cutting some of the things from the budget instead of people in this kind of economic climate?

Media specialist from Montclair spoke about small schools not losing specialists. Last year they listened to us. The process of the internal budget committee did not get the input from my administrator. The small schools are gems. We cross boundaries. Everyone knows everyone. That is what makes our school schedule. If you take us away half time, you're going to tear apart the web of the small schools. McKay has Title 1 and has more flexibility. We need everyone on board. There is an inequity in the small schools. They will not be getting the same instructional needs met.

From a water polo student - shouldn't the 403b for administrators be eliminated and spent on things for students? Wouldn't the leaders of the district be the first to understand the need to save money?



## **Small Group Comments**

**From: Jerry Colonna and Tom Quillin**

**April 21, 2011**

- Stand for Children will go to Salem on Wednesday, April 27, to lobby for more K-12 funding.
- "Cut days, days can be replaced, teachers cannot. Lots of people are saying the same thing."
- Don't do the custodial restructuring.
- Keep the good people that you have.
- "Cut 2 more days. It is easy to add days back in."
- Concerned about Special Ed cuts coming from the Federal Government. Are we not creating greater problems by funding Special Ed below the Maintenance of Effort level for a second year in a row?
- Do not cut the classified trades individuals (carpenters, electricians, fire alarm techs, plumbers, etc).
- Safety issues with cuts to fire alarm techs and drug prevention specialists. These people save lives.
- "Lay off incompetent teachers first. Look at performance on individual student growth and not seniority. Keep new teachers."
- Apply to state to go below state standard for instructional time.
- Beaverton is the state leader in water polo. You get lots of money (in participation fees) from water polo to help pay for it.
- Do not cut Special Ed services.
- Don't grow Summa while you are cutting Special Ed.
- "Don't pay for students to take the ACT. Why do we need this when we are also doing the OAKS test? We are not using the data from the ACT."
- "Teacher resource website should be cut. We don't use the website. Is it really necessary now?"
- Get rid of the nice stuff and do the necessary.
- Terra Nova teacher said she is willing to give up her COLA.
- A concern was mentioned that things were taken off the website like ACT test costs.
- Don't cut small schools, we can't manage with our small staffs now.
- Take days because you will always get them back.
- Need to cut 10-12 more days.
- Don't cut media specialists.

***Listening Session***  
**Karen Cunningham & Holly Lekas**  
**April 21, 2011**

- ❖ Water Polo: Two items of importance for consideration in what water polo offers to its players: 1. (Team camaraderie) There is a lot of team unity. I have participated in multiple sports such as: swimming, football, and racquetball---none of those sports come close to unity of the team as water polo. Outside of the pool we are all one big family. Everyone can relate to somebody and everyone has a friend. 2. (High Expectation in academics) Water Polo has a very high expectation in grades. Highest GPA to any other sport at Beaverton High School. None of the others came close.
- ❖ Feeling—how is this program more important than mine. Sport against sport---it seems more adversarial. It seems like if there was something else to resolve to preserve the district as it is.
- ❖ Discussion about the levy---asked, “Did I hear you correctly that we will not add back what has been reduced?”
- ❖ Asked about more transparency in feedback such as a tally of the listening session input.
- ❖ I support the media specialists. As a classroom teacher, I would like to have my teacher pay frozen. That is not the position of the union (BEA). That is me as an individual. I do know a lot of people who feel the same thing. People are really bothered about the huge hits to the custodians. The media specialist in my school teaches amazing research skills and kids are learning because of her. It is happening in our TWI program too providing training in items such as: text citations, bibliographies. Media specialists are our one link to technology. If we have a technology program, we go to that person. What would happen to book clubs, technology? Every day there is something going on because of her. She wrote a grant to serve our underserved kids to do a summer book mobile. She is amazing. To think that is being cut in half, please dock my pay. I’m willing to share it. If it means a few less days, the quality of the education is what is important. The few less days do not make it difference, it is the people and the services they provide.
- ❖ The librarians are teachers. Can we get a survey monkey out?
- ❖ Discussion about the levy-surveys, details etc.
- ❖ Recommend that the polling for the levy include asking about media specialists and athletics.

- ❖ Are school board members are interested in hearing what a half time media person will do?
- ❖ The statement in the Focus that saving us by keeping us half time made me cry.
- ❖ I teach half time and am half time media specialist. Teachers do not have access to the library when I am teaching. There is an equity issue of access to the media center while I teach. Collaboration diminishes.
- ❖ One of the things that happen in small buildings is that library assistants are pulled out of the building because IAs are doing safety duty in the building. I look at my students of highest need and these students come in early to do homework because they do not have access to technology.
- ❖ I teach in a huge school. I only see kids once a week. If am an only halftime, the teaching will lessen.
- ❖ Student spoke about his high school goal to play water polo at his home high school. He has worked for three years to overcome challenges so that he can play. He is very sad about this and advocates for reconsideration.
- ❖ My son is being successful---proud of him...to have him speak about his desire to play water polo.

Room 106  
Budget Committee Listening Session  
April 21, 2011  
School Board Member – Jeff Hicks  
Staff Member – Dick Steinbrugge

Speaker	Comments
1	Confused about stated class size increase of +1 student on cut list. His student's Errol Hassell class will increase from 23 to 33 ... difficult to understand. As class size increases, upper achievers still get attention, lower achievers get less. 10 additional students unacceptable. Shocked that teachers at risk not heard from tonight. Affects 100 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders.
2	Couldn't find actual budget line items on District web page.
3	Sports cuts ...heard that local option levy to replace funding cuts. Unfair to property owners trying to hang on and avoid foreclosure. Look for corporate sponsors or community donations.
4	Schools are a community. Cuts disproportionately affect some schools. Let each school community decide how to take their fair share % of the cuts.
5	Greenway 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade parent. Title I school @ 70% F&R Lunch. Small school – will get reduction of specialists. Not all students have enrichment at home. Don't target most vulnerable students who have least support at home. Impacts on students with higher means & parent education could cope better. Obesity problem ... higher % problem in kids from lower socioeconomic families. What will be the long-term affect of these cuts on vulnerable kids? Music essential for brain development. Acknowledge that District has tremendously hard choices & burden. Need to get State to adequately fund K-12.
6	Media specialist Highland Park MS. Equity (inequity) huge issue in BSD already. Some large ES with 1,000 students (Beaver Acres) have only 1 media spec; going to 0.5. Described her experience in helping students with research projects ... kids need to learn differently due to different teacher approaches. Why can't teachers' expectations be the same ... use same format for things like note taking, reference documentation. Can't support that many students with different teacher expectations. Would be better to have common research model. She teaches how to do research ... teaches 600 kids. She created model that builds by grade level. Wanted to put on teacher source. Equity ... all students should have access to this learning. A & B schedules very difficult for media specialists to provide support for kids. Sees some kids only about once each six weeks ... due to holidays, nonstudent days, etc. Checks out books ... need to get back. Tries to wait to very late in year ...~ last 4 days, so kids can use them to learn until the end. Next year, will have to start collecting books earlier. She is the person who teaches kids new computer applications. Doesn't understand line item V ( <i>explained</i> ).

Room 106  
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School Board Member – Jeff Hicks  
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7	Retired Dean of ..... ?...from PCC. Students going to college unprepared. Moved here from Pittsburgh for the BSD schools years ago. BSD far exceeded all other schools based upon her national research. Supports community based selection of cuts. Use partnerships with nonprofits to augment services being cut. Think the proposed cut plan will destroy what's special about BSD.
8	Terra Nova student. Concerned that Option schools on brainstorming list. At Terra Nova, taken cuts already. Hope that this cut idea stays off the table. Don't cut Options any more.
9	Student ... Moved here from Mesa AZ. Missed out on Water Polo in AZ. Only way I could get into college. Became member of the national team. AZ didn't have WP. Taking away WP major impact on kids who can't play other sports. Major help to kids.
10	All sports are important to students. Part of education, builds camaraderie, teamwork, life lessons.
11	Terra Nova student. Moved here in 6 <sup>th</sup> grade from Cleveland OH. Relearned same grade level at BSD ... shows Oregon behind. Found teachers didn't know how to teach, just lectured. Terra Nova gave him chance to learn ... only way he will stay in HS, not bored. At TN, able to base all your learning around your passion ... writing, music, whatever. Works for him.
12	Technology resources ... helps to access info. Taught himself technology so he could do his own learning.

## Small Group Listening Session

### Budget Committee

April 21, 2011

Gayellyn Jacobson welcomed everyone and made introductions.

Custodian: Commented that if the custodians are only being capped at 8% then he felt that it was not a monetary issue and more of a management and control issue. Can the cuts be more evenly spread? Even at 8% the custodians are being cut more than any other group in the organization. Can we cut 1% across the board? Would that do it?

Jacobson: About 10% of the budget needs to be cut.

Custodian: Why do custodians have to be impacted more? Can the budget committee look at more sharing?

Specialist: How does the public comment impact the budget committee? I attended last meeting and it wasn't clear what impact the public comments have.

Jacobson: There are no laws that govern what changes the budget committee must make.

Media Specialist: What happens to students if they don't have media specialists? Media specialists provide a variety of services to students. I have been working with students at Beaverton High School all day. I worked with a number of students today who were studying the Cuban Missile Crisis. I am the only media specialist in the school. I have chosen to resign instead of working in an environment where I am a ½ time librarian and ½ time teacher.

Custodian: Once again, why are we picking on a small group?

Media Specialist: I see more than ever the need for librarians and media specialists. It is vital and part of the curriculum.

Special Education Specialist: We are cutting Special Ed because of MOE and what is going on in the state. Why did we get a waiver to reduce MOE? Beaverton will lose about \$1.4 million. Also, because we disciplined a larger percentage of Hispanic students we are going to lose another \$1 million in Special Ed. The Feds say we have to provide support and we're not meeting the criteria.

Jacobson: We met MOE

Irwin: Special Ed is being reduced because about \$7 million in stimulus grant dollars have run out. The discipline issue affects the federal Special Ed grant. The district made up the difference in the general fund so Special Ed was not impacted.

Special Education Specialist: People with disabilities are not being identified. We need to address the possibility that students with disabilities are being overlooked.

Student: We need to be aware of students who are invisible. I was a student at Health Sciences during its first year. There was a fire started in a girl's bathroom on Monday and it may have been set intentionally. If we don't have staff that is properly trained then more of this could happen. We need to have staff that are properly trained to recognize students who are in trouble and be able to assist them.

District Maintenance: I am a watchman for the District. I spent 20 hours redoing hardware that was installed incorrectly. Our contractors are not doing a good job. I found \$100,000 worth of parts that were never installed when they did the remodel at Beaver Acres. How many positions could that save? Doors at Health Sciences were not installed correctly. I put together a list of things that need to be fixed but we have gotten to only 3-4 of them. Who is accountable to make sure our contractors do their job?

Custodian: I have been a custodian for 19 years. I have seen doors locks that were put in incorrectly, locks and cylinders that were not correct and hinges that needed to be fixed. We've been written up by the fire marshal because our doors did not work correctly. The custodian restructuring – I'm not clear why. I feel that the current system is working. You start as a sub and call in to see if there is any work. You usually work nights where you work under a foreman. Then you work your way up. I worked my way up and have been through changes at my school. I know my building and I know my kids. I don't know what the restructuring is all about.

Specialist: I don't understand how you can ask custodians to take a pay cut. How can they feed their family or send their kids to college? Staff is a team. Cuts should be across the board.

Student: I am interested in athletics. I started water polo my freshman year. I can't do private club water polo. We help each other. When I was having a problem with math I went to my coach and a senior who was on the team helped me. There should be across the board cuts for all sports.

Parent: Cutting a sport makes it difficult to get it back again.

Librarian: I work in an elementary school. It takes me 4 days to see all my students. I look at how I will connect with my students. Where will gaps develop and how will I help them reach their learning targets.

Teacher's Aide: There are 930 students at Beaver Acres. Students get to go to the library 1 in every 5 days. If we lose a ½ time librarian does that mean that students will only go once in every 10 days? How do we make sure that librarians reach all students? I see we can save \$1.4 million in administrators only work 11 months. I estimate that is about 8% savings if we reduce it by one month.

Librarian: Before we do an in-service we do research. Who did the research on the library cuts? Nothing contributes more to student success than a well-stocked library and a trained librarian. California cut librarians and test scores went down. They refunded librarians and test scores went back up.

Student: I am a senior at Science and Technology and captain of my water polo team. I think specialists are most important. Music is very important. I volunteer teaching a guitar club. By having dedicated specialists they make an impact.

Former Student: I am a 2009 graduate of Beaverton High School. In college I have applied techniques that I learned from librarians when I was in high school. I want to share a story about water polo. We had a teammate that was having a hard time in a class. The whole water polo team got together and helped her with her final assignments. Sports help with overall performance in school.

ESL Aide: I want to comment on line 13, the reduction in the ESL budget. I work in an elementary school. I am going from 6 hours to 4 hours. There is a 5% reduction in ESL students across the district but the reduction in elementary schools is only 1%. We only have 106 fewer students than this year. Enrollment did not go down last year.

Jacobson: ESL enrollment is going down from 5200 to 4800 students.

ESL teacher: Most of the ESL students are in elementary schools. We are not allowed to teach more than 2 different levels at one time. I don't know how we will do that without ESL aides.

Testing Coordinator: It is a team effort with ESL when we test their students. Librarians and specialists also play an important role as we test our students.



**Beaverton High School  
Budget Listening Session  
April 21, 2011**

LeeAnn Larsen, Facilitator  
Ron Porterfield, Recorder

- Concerned about small school specialists cutback.
- Athletics: Provides the biggest bang for the buck. Cutting level 4 (JV 2's) sports, it prevents students from establishing an identity and relationships. Without, it increases the chance that they'll get lost in the numbers. 10% of budget impacts 25% of student participation.
- Athletics: At what point do we recognize the value of sports? What other programs in our schools delivers that value? The kids and the teams are billboards for our school district. We need to work harder to support them. Seems that the budget proposal for athletic reductions is the only line item that actually cuts/eliminates something. Others are reduced. Why the disparity?
- Golf: We already raise money. We pay for equipment, travel, etc. This is a sport that teaches self-control, honesty, integrity. If golf goes away, it will impact the opportunity for some to earn scholarships. Why not spread the athletic cutbacks across all sports, rather than target two sports.
- Athletics: If we eliminate JV 2's, it limits participation. They essentially are cut. Divide cuts equitably across all sports. We need to help all kids that want to be involved in athletics.
- Athletics: We're only raising participation fees by only \$5. It actually doesn't raise much revenue. Why does every other sport have transportation provided? Everyone should share in the reductions.
- Alarmed by focus on individual programs, rather than carrying the weight equally. Concerned about core curriculum programs that seem to be defined by state testing requirements rather than what children need to be successful in life. We know that PE, athletics, music and other areas are essential for students in this world. This time, the budget cuts came out and media specialists and sports are on the list. If we cut specific programs (specialists) now, it'll be hard to reinstate them in the future. I'm not fighting for my position – it's never been protected – I want to help our kids. Why are individual programs singled out when they'll never come back. Please take more furlough days.
- PE and athletics supporter: Teaches teamwork, leadership, life skills, respect, sportsmanship, etc. Will help promote international business. You can't take things away from kids. They'll thrive one way or another. If you take things away, they'll hate going to school.
- Water Polo: Played 3 sports freshmen year, now involved in water polo and student government. By taking some time off from athletics I didn't feel like I fit in as much. It also effected my grades.
- Private school student that plays water polo. We had a hard time fitting in, but by playing water polo, it helped me adjust and make friends.

- BSD special education teacher: Cutting in one area is not okay. Even cutting back in some areas of special education are damaging. An IEP is important and the gains we achieve will be impacted by a cutback in services. Specialized programs make a difference to kids and their learning. We've made huge growth because of our special programs. Secretaries have been cut too. How will we do our federally-mandated paperwork? I do that at home at night. I'm concerned about litigation.
- Specialized program shutdown is causing concern with special education staff in their ability to meet the mandated services on a student's IEP. 50% of teachers leave the profession in 5 years. Special education teachers leave the profession in 3 years.
- First year special education teacher: We're losing almost \$2.8 million. Our services are mandated, whether there is money or not. The cuts will hurt our services. Particularly concerned with the loss of our communication specialists. These are highly trained people who know how to help these students become more independent. "Fair isn't the same for every student. Fair is what is needed to help every student be successful." \$2.8 million is way too much.
- Find solutions that spread the hurt. The one program that's targeted is the library media program. Librarians teach every student 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. We're a great resource for the school too. We're partners. One thing I haven't heard...cutting librarians to ½ time would have a terrible impact...almost as much as cutting the entire position. In doing some thinking about next year, with a half time media specialist, there is no way the curriculum can be taught.
- Four furlough day was approved by BEA at 99 percent. Membership is ready to approve more furlough days, but BEA needs the Budget Committee and the School Board to ask for them.
- Parent concerned about library specialists. Cut school days instead of cutting library staff. They teach internet safety. Support college and career readiness program.
  - What is the plan to keep libraries open before, during and after the school day for students and staff?
  - What barriers are created by decreasing staffing and access to technology and library resources for students with no library or technology access outside of the school?
  - It is fiscally responsible to invest in online resources textbooks, library books and technology and then reduce the professionals who manages the resources, teach students to use them and save the district thousands in recovery/loss.
- Library media specialists: My students are gifted readers, but I work with a disadvantaged student who is struggling. In my school, the library is always full and the librarian is always helping students. We need to teach students research skills.
- Ideas: Don't buy new computers. Implement actual retirement incentive programs that offer enough money that people with a lot of seniority will accept.

## **Listening Session April 21, 2011- Budget Input- Beaverton HS**

- **Media Specialists-** Kinnaman and Mt. View MS- feel strongly it needs to be a full time position. Currently teach classes and doing library too. A lot falls by the wayside. Sees 1000 students per week. The students she sees don't have books at home.
- **Media Specialist-** I teach 7-8 classes per day. I cover for plan time. As a Title 1 school, these students don't have access to technology at home or books. "I can't do this half time." How do I do this covering two schools? I help teachers find materials they need for class lessons. I help with technology-fixing computers, etc. I am available for teachers. I haven't told my library assistant that she will be teaching 40 mins. every three days next year. Are the assistants going to take over the teaching responsibilities? They don't have the credentials. I connect with teachers and the curriculum. For example, biographies- doing that with students now because one of our teachers in our school is dying of Lou Gehrig's disease. The students learned about Lou Gehrig.
- **Student perspective about media specialists-** I need a place to focus. I need help in looking up topics. AP class had a research project- went to PSU and learned how to look something up- in six floors of books. When I need specific research, the librarian helps me. I respect the job they do. My teacher also gets help from the librarian.
- **Water polo, Lincoln HS student-** We need other teams to play against. If water polo is cut in Beaverton, there are less teams in the area. I made a lot of friends in high school through water polo.
- **Water polo-** It has changed my life. It changed my mentality. It got me more interested in school. I did better in academics. Water polo is a fall sport. The rest of the year, we play for THPRD. We are a family. It is vital. I am not going to have help for college. Water polo may be able to help me with scholarships. Colleges that have water polo, are good schools.
- **Water polo, Lincoln HS Freshman-** made it on the varsity team as a freshman. Water polo is a high conditioning sport. You need good time management. Practice every day, plus one day on the weekends.
- **ISB student Beaverton HS varsity water polo team-**
- **Junior at AHS water polo-** I am a swimmer, but water polo is different. Improved my grades. They are my family. I have opened up more, more outgoing.
- **I was home schooled until HS-** Joined water polo and instantly had friends. Got better grades. It motivates me. Morning practice at 5:00 a.m. and afternoon at 2:45 p.m.
- **Water polo** has helped me get to know people. Came from a small private school. I made friends. I have a work ethic now. Currently on the Olympic development program. Take 8 periods per day, track and field, and water polo.
- **Lincoln HS water polo parent-** This is a sport that is a community. We are here to support water polo. They work really hard. Forms bonds. Exceptional students as well. Practice at the MAC club.
- **Water polo-** Transportation- tournaments just got cut off from AHS. There are seven in the water at a time, plus a goalie. It is a no-cut team.
- **Water polo-** girls don't come out- it is a missed opportunity for them.

- **Water polo-** Scholarships are amazing- full scholarships. Character development to be successful.
- **Media specialists-** Colleges want to see kids that have research skills.
- **Media specialists-** teachers rely on media specialists; Wikipedia is not a good reliable resource.
- **Media specialists-** Oregon Battle of the Books- used plan time to plan 30 mins. I had 90 kids that participated. Can't do it on a half time schedule.
- Beaverton librarians are among the last in the state.
- These cuts are not equitable.
- Who is going to help us sift through the volumes of information?
- You can't take 10% and do cuts to one sport. It needs to be shared across the board.

Budget Committee Listening Session  
*April 21, 2011*  
*Submitted by John Burns and Sue Robertson*

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- Unlike larger schools like Findley, smaller schools have the ideal frequency of specialists' time. Specialists are critical to the safety of the school.
- There is an equity issue in specialist time.
- I have a daughter at William Walker and a son at SHS. I'm most concerned about elementary. Making general cuts across the board doesn't address the inequity. We're a Title I school and don't have many volunteers. Cutting programs like library won't be supported by volunteers.
- At Cedar Mill we are losing .5 Resource (SPED), .5 specialist, 1.0 RTI, 1 day of the school psychologist and possibly a custodian next year. We've already lost our media specialist. How can we keep our students safe?

Facilitator input....here is the juxtaposition of additional staff through Title 1 vs. impacts on non Title 1 schools

- At Errol Hassell we are at 399 students. Our family moved into BSD for the education, and we would prefer that you cut school days in lieu of entire programs, i.e. media specialists. They are the only ones who teach technology safety, bibliography skills, etc. What's the plan to keep libraries open before, during and after school? What about kids with no technology access outside of school? Should we be investing in technology and not manage it effectively? Can we afford to lose these professionals?
- My name is Pam Kessinger, and I'm a local community college librarian. Information literacy is an outcome in community college courses. Students cannot complete the course without completing the outcomes. Media specialists K-12 are information literacy experts. We've made significant progress in collaboration between high school and community college librarians. Don't wipe out this work.
- Water polo is very low injury sport, having the highest GPA on both girls and boys teams. It's a no cut sport, students practice across all grades resulting in strong relationships. Kids feel safe. They like each other and support each other. It's ludicrous to cut an entire program while not touching other programs. We buy everything but the hats and pools, so the cost is low.
- Why not close one of the smaller schools and send them to another school? Please ask about it.

- I'm a Bethany parent. I moved here 2 years ago and chose the elementary school first. Since that time, we've lost a teacher each year. I suggest a salary freeze, freeze tuition reimbursement, or eliminate vacation.

Facilitator input....the vacation \$ and actual function of any revision needs more explanation for the public

- I'm a Raleigh Park parent and am speaking in support of the media specialist. She takes care of so many things and does extensive teaching on research process. She teaches kids about plagiarism, provides Newberry Club, lunch buddies, Battle of the Books, etc. Classroom teachers can't do this as easily. With computers, there is much more to deciding when a source is a good source. Media specialists teach kids when to recognize a reliable source versus junk information. It's a valuable skill that will help them for the rest of their lives and would be difficult to pick up later.
- I'm a resource room teacher at WHS. Last Friday we were told we're losing 2 resource teachers (30% reduction) and 1 IA (50% reduction). In addition, our SPED secretary will be relocated, making our jobs harder. With the loss of the ALC, our caseloads will increase. It seems WHS is taking a larger hit than other schools. I recommend that you return the IAs to the programs, reduce resource room staff by only 1, eliminate the inclusion specialists and give them a caseload, put a moratorium on new projects, books, etc. People are overloaded.
- In Beaverton, new projects and programs tend to get dropped. We need to concentrate now that we're in these times. Media specialists are trained in the new technology, and teachers won't know how to use it without their help.
- I suggest that staff be asked for input on these cuts. For example, are the SPED IAs or secretaries effective?
- I'm a BHS student, and I know times are tough. There's not enough money to go around. The cut to athletics should be evenly spread across all sports. I love this sport (water polo). We're a community. The coach is a mentor and friend. He pushes me to get better, teaching me responsibility, teamwork and leadership. He drives us to work harder in the pool and the classroom and keeps us trying our hardest in school. Please allow water polo to stay on.
- Have you taken a poll to see how many kids ride the buses? There's hardly anyone on the buses in the mornings, but they're packed in the afternoons. Maybe there could be fewer routes in the morning to save money.
- Administrators aren't feeling anything in this budget. They continue to get their great double retirements. Getting the best superintendent doesn't matter without the teachers.

- Could the ESL budget be reduced in proportion to other reductions instead of just based on decreased enrollment. There are small class sizes, and maybe they need more support, but why not put an extra three kids in each class?
- Doesn't SPED also get extra funds?
- If we have \$5.8 billion, why can't we reduce the EFB to 3%?
- I felt there was a crack in the door for the Governor to consider a higher funding level.
- I want to speak up on behalf of janitorial staff. It isn't moral to balance the budget on their backs. It will be hard to rebuild this or the library program. I recommend that we spread the pain.
- Portland's decision to cut custodians and librarians was a disaster.
- Someone tonight talked about cell phones, 403Bs, etc. – why not cut 10% on travel?
- It's hard to reinstate lost programs.
- How can we stop these cuts from occurring?
- What about Intel? They don't pay taxes. Could they help?

***Check notes for Intel/Israeli students.....unplanned....where is Intel's contribution?***

- There is support for cutting days rather than people or sports. ***Straw vote 10 of 18? (all staff present)***
- Kids first.
- Less school – more pool.

Barbara Evans/André Schellhaas

Concerned parent wants update regarding custodians' modifications – explain the funding for custodians

Librarian's update -.5 reductions – not certain if a librarian would be working at two schools...depends on seniority and credentials.

Librarian professional parent talked about profession in Multnomah County school library. She was impressed that Washington County schools had librarians. Librarians bridge the gap in lifelong learning. They model professionalism for our young people. In the 1970's lost only Lms Program. The loss of our Librarians at schools impacts the student learning. Salary cuts have to be done over losing people. Keeping the extra programs will pay off for years to come. Tough times, tough decisions...salary cuts are hard to swallow, but need to happen over losing people.

Since the District changed the ratio for funding of the custodians, can they use the same approach to help the other groups? What do we need to do, or who do we talk to for these groups?

The board has done a good job for the hearing process. Want to see more effort in responding to the public.

Librarian explains what she teaches to the school. Students use both the tools in the classroom and at home. What good is a machine if no one is taught how it is used?

Parent of water polo player – High school sports carry their value of time...adds to what adults become today. Part of the education process, a sport has value, affordable way to produce citizens that you want to create. From an investment point of view – good value for a buck.

Parent agrees....students should try different sports as it provides to be well rounded. Cutting smaller sports makes what is left too competitive. All sports should receive 10% cut. All sports can fund raise, larger sports will have no problem fundraising.

Student who plays water polo explains her work at Beaverton Swim Center. Her interest is in the Coast Guard which prefers water polo people as they are dedicated individuals that can handle extreme situations. This student has chlorine induced asthma – true dedication.

A parent explains when you see a water polo game you fall in love. Parent made deal with student to try first year... love it or leave it. She loves it. Water Polo builds character, strength and endurance. Freshman students can go into this no cut sport – everyone practices together – even grounds.

Prior to playing water polo, another student explains that he was a non-athletic type of kid – he did not enjoy sports. Now he really enjoys water polo sport, it is a place to call home, overall an excellent experience. Cutting water polo is not the right answer!



During Water Polo tournaments it is aggressive. Out of pool student learn to respect their friends.

Layoff notices were given in March to custodians – still do not know where they are at. Real injustice. Original cuts 30-50% - capped to 8%. Disperse the savings across the board to other groups. Not all in the same buildings, knowledge, ownership... when the change occurs ownership will be lost. Savings to energy is due to the custodians – shutting things off and maintaining the building. Ask the budget committee to look at the other ways not to impact other smaller groups. Lessen the blow not so harsh.

Open conversations; break the wall, salary freeze, including 403B freeze

Look at special education in consideration and ell groups. Right services need to be provided – avoid law suits. Most parent groups cannot come to these meetings.

Discussed when the layoff notices were delivered. Custodians on March 14 – Librarians just recently received notices.

Discussed Class size formula and impact.

Addressed the message of local option – it is important to demonstrate the District has a whole done everything possible – including no raises.

Upsetting to hear the class size at options vs the high schools.

Cutting smaller sports crippling that population. Cuts need to go across the board.

Difficult to recreate the team for water polo – takes too many years to recreate and have enough people to field the team. Loss of the momentum...

Small group class size really important – 11 students vs. 30 students - smaller group grows character

**More solutions:**

More furlough days

Spread the cuts across all sports

Travel and communication (cell phone)

Look at the Nextel service vs cell phone – cost savings?

Eliminate Global positioning system in all maintenance vehicles.

Change out two more furlough days to save Librarians.

## Budget Hearing Notes from Sarah Smith's session

- Instead of cutting smaller pieces of the pie, cut larger chunks such as days. Cut the days and show Salem what is really going to happen. Cut in a shorter time period instead of over a long period of time.
- Consolidate smaller schools; those at 250 and under.
- We have schools almost 100 years old, and we're talking about cutting custodians??
- It's a travesty to have a 180 school day with such a great loss to programs. What is a .5 library program going to look like? It takes at least two years to get to know a collection. We need to embed our teaching targets with teachers' teaching targets.
- Other solutions on side B of the line item sheet; it looks like the committee has made its decision already. We tend to the technology. Let's have a power packed shorter school year and show the state what we are dealing with.
- Full day kindergarten is an unfunded mandate. The government has got to stop mandating unfunded programs.
- I know of other districts that are allowed to fund raise for teachers. Why can we not do that? We're asking our kids to fundraise which is great, but we have made our kids into little salesmen. I'm sure families are willing to donate cash to the district as a means for all of us to contribute whatever we can give.
- Think about a school as your house. Could you clean this overnight?
- Don't cut the media specialists as they are the key to preparing our kids for the technological future.
- Cuts of the workweek days does not save money because the buildings are open on closed days for activities and sports.
- Water polo exposed me to other sports, other clubs, and other groups.
- Can we make some of the middle schools and high schools more comprehensive by housing certain programs in a single facility?
- Has there been serious consideration for lines DD and EE, administrator salary reductions or freezes? It would give us some temporary relief for one or two years.
- It's shocking that we are still buying and using textbooks in schools.
- Assistive technology is a key communication means for our son. New technologies are creating a great potential for capabilities and applications for students, especially for those with special needs. These allow my son to have a voice and communicate. It does not take a lot of people to harness the power that is out there with new technologies.
- **Will the ESD provide these services?**
- Media specialists help us interact with those students who need these devices, in addition to assisting us with technologies.
- Is the proposed budget online, in its entirety?
- Parents will not even notice the impact of furlough days the way they are calendared. Parents need to feel the impact; the days should be consecutive.

- Administrators will end up picking up all the pieces of the custodian and librarian. We have not screamed loud enough for the community to understand what is going on.
- I want an opportunity to give feedback to BEA again, maybe another survey. We want to request the consideration of more days. How do we communicate that? We asked for that at the last listening session. Did the Board communicate this to David?