



## Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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The Lincoln County School District Budget Committee met on May 17, 2016 at Newport High School with 8 committee members, 6 staff members and a Newport News Times reporter present.

### **Election of Chairperson and Establishment of Rules and Calendar**

Larry Anthony was elected as chairperson. The committee elected to allow public comment at the beginning of the meeting. Two additional dates are available if needed for additional meetings.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

### **Budget Committee Responsibilities**

Superintendent Steve Boynton stated that the responsibility of the budget committee is to give a recommendation on the proposed budget to the school board on all funds appropriated by the school district. They may approve the proposed budget at this meeting or may conduct additional meetings as needed for approval prior to the deadline.

### **Superintendent's Budget Message**

Superintendent Boynton read his budget message. The full message is contained in the proposed budget document available on the district's web site at [www.lincoln.k12.or.us](http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us).

### **Budget Assumptions**

Director of Business Services Julie Baldwin gave a presentation on the assumptions used to create the proposed budget document. The assumptions are included in the proposed budget document on pages 1 and 2 of section 1. The full PowerPoint presentation can be found on the district web site.

Director Baldwin recommended that the committee amend the proposed budget to balance transfers between funds by adding a \$5 placeholder in Special Funds revenues and expenditures. This placeholder is necessary to allow the board to transfer funds, if needed, with a board resolution rather than a costly supplemental budget.

Director Baldwin highlighted many of the district's accomplishments this year including:

- Increased student achievement
- Improved resources and tools for accessing and analyzing student achievement data
- Increased opportunities for PE and music at all elementary schools
- Increased programs and electives for secondary schools
- Improved wages for ALL district staff that meet or exceed state average
- Increased cash reserves to allow for:
  - Negative changes to SSF revenue without derailing the school year by cutting days or staff
  - Sustaining increased programs and staff into the future
  - Possible flat or decreased state funding in the next biennium

Director Baldwin stated that much time and planning has gone into creating the district's current financial plan to get through the next biennium. We are working the plan and the plan is working.

### **Discussion**

Superintendent Boynton and Director Baldwin provided clarifying details for the committee's questions.

The committee noted a decrease in budget for textbooks while schools have held fundraisers for books. Superintendent Boynton said it is more prudent to spend district funds on technological resources that are updated regularly and correspond to current testing materials rather than outdated textbooks. Therefore budget has been moved from textbooks to technology. Schools often raise funds to buy leveled reading books for classroom and school libraries because we do not yet have an electronic device for each student. He noted this budget line item has been increased to alleviate the need for fund raising.

Jeff Doyle noted concern over the board's position not to purchase portables to reduce class sizes in

the primary grades and asked about the district's target class size. Superintendent Boynton said the target is 25 or less. However current facility sizes prevent this from being realized. Current average class size is 27. The district has expansion plans drawn for all schools but the breaking point of around 30 has not yet been reached. A drop off in enrollment has caused us to close buildings in the past so expansion isn't yet prudent.

Mr. Doyle noted that Arcadia could be reopened but there are additional ongoing expenses to consider in staffing, utilities and support services that are not needed when expanding existing facilities. He asked about the status of the old Taft Elementary building. Director Baldwin reported the building has been demolished. The district has been in negotiations with the City of Lincoln City for several years to purchase the land. However, the City's purchase relies on grant funding that they haven't been able to secure to date so the property is still for sale. The potential revenue from this sale has been budgeted for the past several years in the building maintenance fund but has not been realized because the sale is not complete.

Ron Beck noted the City of Newport is matching LCSD for a School Resource Officer for Newport schools and asked where this is identified in the budget. Superintendent Boynton replied that LBL ESD Tier II funds are directly supporting this position so it is not reflected in the budget.

Larry Anthony inquired about the increased safety budget to purchase radios. Director Baldwin said they are hand held 2 way radios used for safety communications when classes are outside of the building or in cases of emergency. Principals indicated the cost to replace these radios and batteries was draining their budgets and it was decided to budget for these centrally in 2016-17.

Ron Beck noted that he is a member of the LBL ESD budget committee and that LCSD is in much better shape than other districts within the ESD. We have a good strategy as long as unforeseen things don't occur.

Amanda Remund praised the district for building cash reserves for the future without cutting staff.

Liz Martin commended Director Baldwin and her staff for putting together a transparent budget. She feels comfortable and confident with the numbers

and feels the district is headed in a good direction in saving money to plan for the future under Superintendent Boynton's leadership.

### **Approval of Proposed Budget**

The committee amended the proposed budget to balance the \$5 placeholder for transfers to and from the general fund and special revenue funds. This is necessary to allow transfers by board resolution rather than preparing a costly supplemental budget.

The budget was approved as amended in the aggregate amount of \$93,375,947. Further, the budget committee moved that the permanent tax rate of \$4.9092 per \$1,000 of assessed value be assessed in support of the General Fund. This permanent tax rate is expected to raise \$32,399,500.

The committee also approved the Debt Service Fund budget in the amount of \$6,284,925, with \$5,352,495 being assessed against the assessed property values of Lincoln County.

### **Conclusion and Adjournment**

Several members again commended district staff on providing a very detailed and transparent budget document.

The committee discussed condensing the budget document to a higher level overview and discontinuing printing the larger detailed document. It was decided to continue producing the entire document but give committee members the option of receiving a summarized paper version with the full version available electronically.

Superintendent Boynton expressed his thanks to the committee for their service.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.