

District Budget Engagement Committee

February 27, 2017

Minutes

1. Welcome

Chairperson Cathy Garza called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. Members went around the room and introduced themselves.

Members present: Carolyn Day Flowers, Cathy Garza, Kathleen Maloney, Petronilla Fernandes, Sara Danielson, and Xavier Abrams

Staff and public present: Tom Panas, Sheri Gamba, Regina Webber, Denise Cifelli, Anton Jungher

2. Approval of January 12, 2017 Minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Danielson to approve the January 12, 2017 Minutes; second by Ms. Maloney. Ms. Day Flowers, Ms. Garza, Ms. Maloney, Ms. Fernandez and Ms. Danielson votes yes. There were no noes, Ms. Abrams abstained, and no absences. Motion passed 6-0-1-0

3. Budget Discussion

Public Comment:

Anton Jungherr requested all information be posted on website and that agendas include a public comment section.

Committee Comments:

Ms. Fernandes requested documents be translated into Spanish. Ms. Gamba explained that budget information was extracted through a software program and could not be translated however, staff will work to translate their documents when time permits.

Ms. Webber presented context and overview of the components of the budget cycle and the various items Business Services reviews as they are making decisions. Some of those items include state regulations, board priorities, union contracts, and availability of special resources. Ms. Gamba provided additional detail on the weight of union contracts, staffing, and special resources.

Board Member Cuevas arrived at 6:55pm. Chairperson Garza asked Ms. Cuevas to introduce herself.

Ms. Webber and Ms. Gamba went over the Citizen Transparency Tool explaining the information it will house and the ability for anyone to drill down into the finances of the district by site, department, fund, goal, etc. Ms. Gamba stated that the link to the tool will be sent to the committee once it's up and running.

Ms. Webber and Ms. Gamba continued the presentation going over the LCAP goals explaining how the budget is laid out within each goal. The committee discussed restricted vs. unrestricted funds, use of supplemental concentration funds and broke down the goal components. Ms. Gamba provided further explanation of GAP funding, funding for teacher salaries and Special Ed funding.

Ms. Webber explained how staffing is determined for both classified and certificated personnel and how outlying factors such as increases in CalPERS and CalSTRS impact budgeting for multi-year budget projections. The group discussed school site staffing, combination classes and site closures questioning how the impact on budgeting. Ms. Gamba invited the committee to attend the Board Study Session on March 22 at DeJean Middle School which would provide even greater insight into the budget process.

Chairperson Garza noted that it was currently 8:10 and asked the committee if they wished to continue and they did.

Ms. Webber presented an overview of the Standard Account Code Structure (SACS) used by all school districts and broke down how the structure worked

4. Good of the Order

Ms. Danielson requested the meetings be changed to a location more central to Richmond. Ms. Fernandes agreed. Chairperson Garza suggested Helms and staff agreed to see what could be done.

Chairperson Garza requested the roster be on the next agenda to see where vacancies lie.

Ms. Cuevas encouraged the committee members to be involved and to attend and participate in board meetings by providing input from the committees viewpoint as well as a member of the community through public comment.

Ms. Day Flowers thanked staff for the presentation.

Ms. Fernandes thanked staff for the translator and child care.

5. Adjourn

Chairperson Garza adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

***The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 27, 2017 at
6:30 p.m. at Pinole Middle School (unless Helms
Middle School is available)***