

District Budget Engagement Committee

June 13, 2017

Minutes

1. Welcome

Ms. Garza called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. She welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Christopher Mount-Benites was introduced as the new Associate Superintendent Business Services replacing Sheri Gamba who is retiring.

Members Present: Cathy Garza, Kathleen Maloney, Petronila Fernandes, Sara Danielson, Stephanie Sequeira

Staff Present: Tom Panas, Christopher Mount-Benites, Regina Webber, Gus Aguilera, Denise Cifelli, Leticia Oregon

2. Approval of March 27, 2017 Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Fernandes to approve the minutes as amended; second by Ms. Maloney. Motion was approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment

None

4. 2017-18 Budget Report

Mr. Mount-Benites advised they would focus on the power point to see what questions might be generated.

Ms. Garza asked he provide background and experience on himself which he provided.

Mr. Mount-Benites provided a high level overview of the parts of the budget. He touched on staffing, budget changes, multi-year projections, and fund balance.

Ms. Garza questioned if student count includes Charter students which Ms. Webber believes it does but will check. Ms. Sequiera asked if we then pay the Charter for their students which we do. Mr. Mount-Benites also explained there is now a formula for parcel tax funding to also be released to the Charter Schools based on ADA. Ms. Fernandes asked for an explanation of the lottery fund which Mr. Mount-Benites explained.

Mr. Mount-Benites went on to break out revenue sources, discussed LCAP funding and assumptions of what might happen once the district reaches 100% implementation. He provided assumptions used for multi-year projections with discussions around declining enrollment, charters and what the district is doing to build better programs to attract and retain families. The group continued discussion touching on culture changes, different fund sources and the structural deficit.

Ms. Danielson requested further explanation of a structural deficit which Ms. Webber and Mr. Mount-Benites explained.

Mr. Mount-Benites went on to explain the components included in fixed costs such as salaries, benefits and retirement, and the effect of the continuing increase of STRS/PERS rates which are permanent ongoing

costs. He completed his presentation by drawing attention to Appendix D in the Executive Summary and led the committee through the document.

Ms. Maloney appreciated the layout of the book. She pointed out differences in salaries based on experience and salary band and felt it would be of interest if it could be broken out.

The group went on to discuss the portion of the budget with flexibility for the committee to suggest changes and make an impact, how reserve funding might be utilized, and differences between one-time vs. ongoing funding. Discussion continued around the impact of wants vs. needs and the impact on programs that might be discontinued or downsized. Mr. Mount-Benites explained choices staff and the Board are currently looking at and the impact it plays on perception from parents and the community.

5. Committee Presentation to Board

Ms. Garza requested clarification of the committee's role at the meeting stating she felt she was not in a position to make any recommendations as she and the committee are still learning how to decipher the budget.

Mr. Panas added that he wants the committee to report out when they uncover an item or area they feel is important.

They continued to discuss ideas on what their budget message should be and the need for continued training on the budget in order to become familiar enough to make recommendations to the Board. They decided to update the Board by telling them they are meeting, still deciphering and understanding the budget and would present budget priorities at a future meeting.

6. Development of Committee Priorities/Focus

This item was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

7. Good of the Order

Ms. Danielson asked if Ms. Cuevas could speak at the next meeting to discuss her thoughts and insights on the committee's purpose. Mr. Panas and Ms. Garza stated they would reach out to her.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Garza adjourned the meeting at 8:06 P.M.