

## Jan 18, 2024 | 🗓 Budget Committee

Attendees: Kimberly White, Kory Kalahar, Sean Fitzgerald, Julie Norton, Martin Barron, Diana Haglund, Heidi Busk, Kelly Lopez, Ron Brown

Notes:

Kory and Sean provided a budget presentation.

- Martin - Messaging about the “crisis” must be that it was already happening. The \$9 million error was  $\frac{1}{3}$  ESSER,  $\frac{1}{3}$  enrollment,  $\frac{1}{3}$  tracking. Corrective action was taken immediately, so the number really amounted to about \$3 million.
- Martin - We also need to better market/promote what we offer at the middle and high school levels. We are in the top  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the State with our offerings.
- Martin - Glad we are updating demographics (Davis Demographics).
- Martin - Music can be a hot button. How are you tackling electives with smaller class sizes? (In regards to middle school schedule)
  - The new schedule will offer many electives. Hoping not to reduce or collapse entire programs.
  - The new schedule will allow us to combine classes and reduce elective teachers without reducing elective options.
  - We could also do several grade levels in one class.
- Martin - later start time for secondary has been an issue in the community for athletics, transportation, etc.
  - If HS changes its schedule, it will be 6 per. day, which will help with athletics. We may be eliminating 6th-grade athletics. We will also need to look at how we schedule student-athletes.
- Martin - Carryover vs. allocation from Board. Very favorable reserves right now. We are dealing with a richer surplus than we planned and an accelerated decline in enrollment over what we expected. Don’t want to stash away favorable reserves.
- IPD - \$4 million cost - please break it out in terms of what state funds and district’s cost.
  - Everything has been adjusted for inflation. The state doesn’t fully fund the IPD.
  - The 120M projected revenue includes the 3.7% - apples-to-apples
- Martin - Program changes would affect curricular and extracurricular.
- Martin - Concerned about closing a school so soon without more notice to the community.
  - We are inefficiently running at the elementary level. We can do much more with our resources with those students in other buildings. This will be a larger budget impact. Martin - Need to plan it and communicate well.
  - **We are looking at other uses for Columbia, such as moving Valley there.**
- Julie - Are we using a consultant to help with the process of consolidating elementary?
  - Davis Demographics only at this point. Also, we are looking at increasing TTK and growing enrollment at Valley Academy. We currently have a wait list of 25 at Valley.
- Martin - The message must be that we are moving things around to do a better job, not just closing a school.
  - Decreasing enrollment has strongly made us look at this.

Kory: Any feedback? What would you like to see in future meetings?

Martin - You are doing the right thing, and how we explain things is important for the community.  
Julie - Great presentation! Answered all the questions she had without her having to ask.

Conversation with Martin after the meeting:

Maybe Sean could put the revenue forecast in the 3-year projection and see how that plays out.

Declining enrollment should have been included in the two-year plan for reductions

Our senior workforce costs more.

Make sure to note that for \$13 million, don't compare what you've budgeted to what you actually spent.

Don't budget at 100% staffing.

Political issue to have so much in reserves.

Choked on how it was presented as a "crisis" last time. Need to convey:

- We missed our budget this year on elementary enrollment.
- The decrease in enrollment was higher than expected this year and is projected to continue next year.

If we are using the 2.9 million - take it out of the \$13

Promote closure as a good thing and all of the good things that will happen to explain why we are doing it so quickly. More efficient structure for delivering learning to students.

Messaging about refinancing the bonds can be paired with messaging about things we are doing to be more efficient.

Schools nationwide had the same "crisis" as we did in June, but it came 3-4 months later.

We are the highest-quality education provider in the region.