

Moses Lake, WA - May 13, 2024 - The Moses Lake School District is confronting significant budgetary constraints for the upcoming 2024-25 school year due to various factors including a failed levy, accounting errors, and inflationary pressures.

The district anticipates substantial reductions to programs and staffing levels that are not funded or are underfunded by the state amounting to an estimated \$20 million budget reduction. The breakdown of funding shortfalls is as follows:

- Levy Collection: -\$4 million shortfall
- Local Effort Assistance: -\$4.2 million shortfall
- Regionalization: -\$2 million shortfall
- State Apportionment: -\$1.8 million reduction
- Accounting Errors: -\$11 million reduction resulting from revenue being recorded and accounted for twice and over-projections of student enrollment

In response to these financial challenges, the Moses Lake School Board convened a special meeting on Saturday, May 11th, during which they passed Resolution 2024-07, signaling the need for a reduced educational program for the 2024-25 academic year.

Recognizing that approximately 80% of the district's budget is allocated to staffing expenditures, adjustments in staffing levels are unavoidable to achieve a balanced budget. Consequently, non-renewal notices will be issued to approximately 100 certificated, provisional teaching staff by the date of May 15th. However, impacted employees may have the opportunity to re-apply for positions depending on further adjustments to personnel and non-personnel expenses. The current reductions in certificated staff are projected to yield savings of approximately \$13 million.

Further staffing reductions will also be implemented in accordance with collective bargaining agreements impacting administrative positions and classified staff. Additional areas of reductions may include: Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities, Staff Extra Duty Pay, Curriculum Adoption, Technology Upgrades/Replacements, Maintenance/Custodial/Grounds Projects, School Resource Officers, Community Programs, Facility Usage, Career and College Readiness Programs, Vehicle Fleet Replacements, Professional Development, Travel, and Supplies/Equipment.

The remaining specifics of the reduced educational program are yet to be finalized, but will be developed collaboratively with the School Board of Directors. The adjusted

programming will ensure compliance with legal requirements and high school graduation standards set forth by the Washington State Board of Education.

The Moses Lake School District remains committed to navigating these financial challenges while prioritizing the delivery of quality education to its students.