



**2017-2018  
BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of May 11, 2017  
Budget Committee Meeting #1**

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The Gresham-Barlow School District Budget Committee met at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 11, 2017 in the Partnership Room of the Center for Advanced Learning, 1484 NW Civic Drive, Gresham, OR.

Members in attendance were: Kris Howatt, Sharon Garner, John Hartsock, Matt O'Connell, Michael Buck, Michael Deveney, Darrell Buell, Amanda Gayken, Justin Weatherford, and Rebecca Merchant. Members: Carla Piluso, Kathy Ruthruff, Kent Zook and Nicholas Kemper were absent.

The following central office administrators were present: Jim Schlachter, Mike Schofield, Teresa Ketelsen, Julie Evans, John Koch, and Athena Vadnais.

Guest: Danielle Currey

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Board Vice-Chair Kris Howatt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcoming all present to the first official budget meeting.

**ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Board Vice-Chair Kris Howatt conducted the election of a budget committee chair and vice-chair process.

Chairperson John Hartsock nominated Michael Deveney; Matt O'Connell seconded the nomination. The nomination of Michael Deveney as Chairperson passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Michael Deveney nominated Michael Buck; Matt O'Connell seconded the nomination. The nomination of Michael Buck as Vice-Chair passed unanimously.

**APPROVE MARCH 23, 2017 WORKSHOP 101 MINUTES**

It was moved by John Hartsock to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2017 Budget Committee Workshop 101 as presented; Matt O'Connell seconded the motion. The motion to approve the March 23, 2017 minutes passed unanimously.

## **BUDGET MESSAGE**

Superintendent Schlachter thanked everyone for being at the meeting. Mr. Schlachter began by going over the key elements of the 2017-18 Budget Message to the committee. Those included: Preserve the Core, Strategically Invest, and Stimulate Progress. Teaching and Learning, Growth and Achievement for All; Eliminate the Achievement Gap and Support Equitable Outcomes; College and Career Readiness; Early Learning; Class Size and Learning Environments; Community Partnerships; and Community Investment. Mr. Schlachter then explained how the budget and grants currently support the District Vision.

Chief Financial Officer, Mike Schofield, addressed the Budget Assumptions portion of the budget message, which included: the budget process, a financial update summary, and the district's demographics from 2008-09 to 2016-17 and 2017-18 projections. Mr. Schofield then shared the major budget modifications, including the PERS reserve; budget assumptions he used to develop the 2017-18 budget; and what is on the horizon for the district. Mr. Schofield explained the roles of the budget committee and next steps.

## **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Chair Deveney opened public testimony at 8:09 p.m. Being there was no public testimony Chair Deveney closed public testimony.

## **QUESTIONS AND CLOSING COMMENTS**

Rebecca Merchant asked if the district was planning to increase the reserve rate as PERS rates increase. Mr. Schofield responded that the district would continue to monitor the reserve each year and adjust accordingly.

Matt O'Connell asked how the PERS reserve would look on the district's financial statements. Mr. Schofield responded that the PERS reserve would be a special revenue fund.

Kris Howatt asked if neighboring districts are budgeting \$8.1 billion. Mr. Schofield responded that many of the larger, neighboring, districts are budgeting \$8.1 billion, but some of the smaller districts are budgeting \$7.9 billion.

John Hartsock asked if we end up with \$7.8 billion would the district cut staff or days. Mr. Schofield responded that cutting days is not a sustainable approach.

Justin Weatherford asked if there was a long-range plan to fund building projects once the bond money is used up. Mr. Schofield responded that the district receives construction excise tax funds and that the district does not plan to utilize those dollars in the near future. He also said that the turf field fund would continue to grow. Also, in technology the district has a leg up as well, and that the bond funds will help build the e-rate account; however, the district will not be able to move away from going for bonds in the future to fund capital construction projects.

Darrell Buell asked when did the district start receiving \$100 – \$150 thousand in construction excise tax. Mr. Schofield stated that 2007 was the first year.

Mr. Schofield asked that budget members email or schedule a meeting to discuss any questions they have about the budget prior to the May 22 meeting, so that the questions could be addressed at the next meeting.

Superintendent Schlachter thanked everyone for their part in the budget process and their support of the district.

Chair Deveney adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Hobbs, Budget Committee Secretary.

Minutes approved:

  
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Michelle Hobbs, Budget Committee Secretary

5/22/17  
Date

