

# **CHURCHILL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Fallon, Nevada  
January 31, 2017**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Phyllis Dowd called the budget committee meeting to order at 4:02 PM at the Churchill County School District Administration Office, 690 South Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Phyllis.

## **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Keith Boone, School Principal/CCAA Rep  
Therese Borja-Falani, PIC  
Brian Byrd, Director of Maintenance  
Phyllis Dowd, Director of Business Services  
Doug Drost, Financial Community  
John Johnson, School Principal  
Gregg Malkovich, School Principal  
Elena Marsh, CCEA Representative  
Kimi Melendy, Director of Education Services  
Phil Pinder, Board Member  
Shawn Purrell, School Principal  
Steve Russell, Director of Transportation  
Sandra Sheldon, Superintendent  
Dan Slentz, Technology Representative  
Michele Taylor, Military Liaison  
Amy Word, School Principal

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Michelle Austin  
Becky Dodd  
Scott Lecker  
Sue Pruitt (clerical support)  
Carmen Schank  
Kathryn Whitaker

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments. Our new members were welcomed and introductions were made.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from May 17, 2016 were presented as part of the meeting packet. There were no comments, general consensus deemed them approved.

## **DISCUSSIONS**

To present FY17-18 Projected Revenue, Phyllis began with Projected 2017-18 Enrollment, noting teacher ratios look "off" for Northside due to grant funding criteria. Lahontan is projecting 511. Legislation has removed the criteria of weighted student count for Kindergarten. However, there is some residual concern for permanence of this decision. EC Best will be losing a few students at

497. Numa will maintain at 507, the middle school is up to 710 and the high school is at 973. With full Kindergarten pupil counts our increase in Distributive School Account (DSA) funding would be about \$811,978, but the current full day Kindergarten grant of \$495,667 will likely go away so net DSA funding increase is anticipated to be \$316,311.

The per pupil rate is unknown until approximately May 31<sup>st</sup>. Our final budget hearing will be May 24<sup>th</sup>. We do expect the per pupil rate to go up as the Governor recommends a 2% increase.

The Governor's recommended budget included \$30 million go into the Special Education Fund. The Legislature has changed the funding mechanism for Special Education and we did not get any of the last increase in funding. Finance Directors from Nevada districts are meeting with the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) hoping to get a more equitable distribution to at least cover the Governor's recommended roll-ups. Roll-ups have been covered with General fund transfers.

No other revenue projections have been received. We just submitted our application for Impact Aid. We are feeling a little hit with the base housing situation and have asked for a credit for our Military families since housing is closed.

The projected 2017-18 elementary teacher staffing proposal recommends an increase of six teachers. The board has approved a hiring bonus to help with recruiting of new teachers. Effort is being made to keep new teachers in the District with an allocation of the bonus over 2 years, and possibly adding a criteria for transfers within the State of Nevada.

We cannot look at staffing for secondary teachers until student registration is underway. Retirement letters are coming in. Hopefully by next meeting we can have an idea of teacher movement with student registration and retirements in consideration.

We are estimating \$325 thousand for staff roll-ups. Our medical insurance costs have a cap of 10% which is \$275 thousand. LP Insurance has been proven good at negotiating on our behalf, so hopefully our increase will not be that much. PERS will not be increasing this year.

The Board of Trustees has asked for a list of budgeting priorities by building. This will be presented at the Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. We are proud to say "no position cuts" on this budget. Phyllis expressed her appreciation to the committee for making this happen. Dr. Sheldon noted the Board may have their own priorities to add to the list. They will prioritize the list of possible additions with the dollars available.

Phyllis reviewed the Nevada Department of Taxation budget due dates. The tentative budget is due April 17<sup>th</sup>. The budget hearing will be May 24<sup>th</sup>, and the final budget is due June 8<sup>th</sup>. Preliminary tax projections will be done on February 15<sup>th</sup> and will be updated on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Final tax projections will be given to us on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Phyllis presented proposed target dates. At the February committee meeting, we will begin working with budget priorities given by the Board. By the committee meeting in March, we should have the tentative budget in place to present to the Board on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Once the final DSA numbers are given in May, we won't have opportunity for another meeting prior to the due date of

the final budget. If the DSA amount is reduced, the Board could call a special meeting to deal with budget issues, if necessary.

Doug Drost noted we are short staffed; “why would we consider paying someone to retire if we can’t fill the positions we have?” Dr. Sheldon noted we have two legal issues to consider. 1) Our policy says the Board can make a determination whether or not to offer buyouts, and 2) Have the buy-outs become a right of the employees. Sharla is researching this item. The buy-out requests will be presented to the Board on Feb 8th. Sharla can advise the Board if they should move ahead with them or not. Of the buy-outs that have been requested, some are at 29 and 30 years. If we were to keep them, it would only be for one year. We are being very aggressive in our recruiting this year in Michigan, Utah and Idaho. Mr. Rutledge’s class has helped with pamphlets and a video. Becky Dodd asked about how the timing will work with hiring of new teachers. If they sign their letter of intent, then DSA is cut and the new position has to be cut it would be a bad reflection on our District. This is a very good point, but we really hope we could work with what we have to avoid this happening.

**NEXT MEETING**

Phyllis suggested February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> for future meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no additional public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM.