

Budget Committee

1-28-09

Minutes

Introductions of Attendees

Robbie M., Assistant Superintendent of Business, provided a review of the Governor's budget proposal for the next 18 months. It is a \$40 billion dollar crisis. Budget issues for California are not new for the state, but the magnitude is!

Schools are funded a dollar amount per child's daily attendance (revenue limit calculation). \$25 million dollars for Buckeye are unrestricted, with the total budget being \$35 million. Part of this is from property taxes and the rest comes from the state. Over 85% of the District's budget is for people. This is important to remember in proposing cuts. A 4.54% cut has been proposed for revenue limit - \$1.25 dollars, along with no COLA. 09-10 proposed cut is approximately \$700,000 more for a total of nearly \$2 million over 18 months. The District does have reserves. 3% are required by law, which is about \$1 million for Buckeye. To put it in perspective, a month's payroll is more than \$2 million. The District has about 7% in reserve.

Buckeye needs to do a combination of four things: reduce expenditures, raise revenue, use reserves, and respect each other in the process.

Unrestricted revenue \$25-27 mil comes to the district. (includes ADA, lottery dollars, class size reduction is \$1071 per student) Revenue limit is paid on average daily attendance (ADA). California is the only state that pays this way. Other states report enrollment on one given day and that is how they are funded. (Perhaps a different funding method for California should be used!)

We can increase revenue by increasing attendance. Excused absences, such as illnesses, do not bring in any revenue. We only receive revenue for a student being at school. Raising our attendance by 0.50% brings almost \$125,000 into our budget. We do not want sick kids at schools, but we do need students to attend when they are not sick.

Reducing Expenditures- The District's Steering Committee generated a list of reductions/cuts starting from last year's list. This list was provided to the Budget Committee members for discussion purposes.

Measure K dollars belong to the District, it is a local tax. The state cannot touch it. However, the District received a letter from the state indicating it is holding back their share of the funding for some of our projects. The District will complete the projects we started, but will evaluate the timeline for the remaining projects carefully.

Key dates:

- March 15 – This is the date by law in which we have to notify certificated staff of a layoff. Even if someone is notified, it does not mean they will be laid off. No decisions have been made at

this time. Nothing on the list is for sure. We are open to any legal ideas. Terry has been attending staff meetings where more ideas have been generated.

- March 27 – End of Second Period of Attendance (P-2)
- May - Governor releases a revised proposal for 2009-10
- June 30 - The final budget has to be adopted by June 30.

The committee broke up into discussion groups to review ideas generated from the Steering Committee and add new ones to the list.

Members were encouraged to share the information they learned about today with their school sites, parents and friends. Committee members were also encouraged to send emails to Robbie with any ideas they come up with between now and the next meeting.

Next meeting February 24, 2009