

# BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

## Minutes

### Attendance at Meeting

#### **BAC Members:**

Angela Meeker, Asst. Supt., Educational Services  
Carolyn Livingston, Santa Cruz Education Foundation (Alternate)  
Casey Carlson, GSCFT  
Clyde Curley, Principal, Westlake Elementary  
Eileen Brown, Director, Student Services (AMA)  
Jean Gardner, Santa Cruz Co. Office of Education  
Jeanie Brown, SCCCE (Alternate)  
Jeremy Shonick, Board Trustee  
Jim Monreal, Asst. Supt., Business Services  
Kris Munro, Superintendent  
Lacie Gray, Santa Cruz Education Foundation  
Molly Parks, Asst. Supt., Human Resources  
Richard Davis, Principal, Harbor High

#### I. Agenda and Introductions

Mr. Monreal called the meeting to order in Room 312 at the District office at 6:30 pm., and gave an overview of the agenda. The 2015-16 Preliminary Budget and the LCAP budgets will be presented to the Board on 6/17/15 as a public hearing. They will come back to the Board at their meeting of 6/24/15 for adoption. BAC members in attendance were invited to introduce themselves. Mr. Monreal noted that for the future, efforts will be made to send the BAC agenda packets to members electronically, to reduce the amount of paper used.

#### II. May Revise Update

Mr. Monreal reported that he had attended the May Revise workshop by School Services of CA in San Jose on 5/19/15. The outlook is one of the most promising in years. He presented a power point slide show which captured highlights of the May Revise budget. School districts will receive 90% of new revenue to the State. A greater share of increased costs for STRS and PERS will be absorbed by school districts. The goal of the Local Control Funding Formula is to return schools to the same purchasing power that they had in 2007-08, the last year they were fully funded. The Governor has proposed giving school districts one-time monies with the suggestion to use it on Common Core implementation and other programs. SCCS has fewer FREL students, so will not qualify for as much as schools districts with higher percentages. No State funds have been allocated for school districts' facility needs. Information is changing daily.

#### III. Multi-Year Projections

Mr. Monreal presented a multi-year projection spreadsheet which showed the \$3.7 new one-time money to be received by SCCS, but without any new expenditures incorporated.

#### IV. Staff Budget Recommendations

The minutes of the Joint Meeting of the SCCS Board and the BAC on April 7, 2015 were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Monreal described the Budget Priorities Surveys which were sent to staff and parents recently. At the 4/7 meeting, attendees worked on analyzing the results, which were then summarized in terms of top priorities for three groups – leadership, staff and parents. Included in the agenda packet were more detailed results for several questions on the surveys. Based on the information obtained, Mr. Monreal presented recommendations for additional positions from unrestricted funds.

Asst. Supt. Angela Meeker presented a proposed budget for 2015-6 LCFF Budget Expenditures. Some funds will be directed toward ongoing programs, while other funds will support additional positions and programs. Some funds were reserved for schools to spend on site specific needs. These recommendations were developed after conversations with staff and students regarding budget priorities.

Mr. Monreal presented a revised Multi-Year Projection which incorporated the above recommendations.

#### V. Committee Discussion & Public Comments

Laura Jones, President, Delaveaga Parent Teacher Club, presented a letter outlining needs at Delaveaga. She proposed that District funds in reserve, parcel tax carryover and anticipated new revenue from the State be used to address needs now, rather than later. Needs at Delaveaga include: funds for enrichment programs and staff (rather than relying on parent fundraising), adequate administrative staff for their 650+ student campus, a shade structure over the lunch area, a water fountain near the lunch area, and a cooling mechanism for classrooms which tend to overheat.

Committee members asked questions and made comments regarding the information presented, including:

- GSCFT and SCCCE representatives urged the District to restore positions lost during the recession and fund stipends for co-curricular teachers.
- Committee members can address the Board with comments on the budget.
- Jean Gardner, Finance Director of the SC COE, explained that reserves are important to cover cash flow needs. 3% of the budget equals ~ 8 days of payroll. Revenues are received at different times during the year. Jim Monreal added that one month's expenses typically equal ~ 8% of the budget.
- Audience members asked if the District was considering long-term solutions to over-crowding at Westlake and Delaveaga elementary schools. Mr. Monreal responded that the master plan for facilities is being updated, and that continued growth will be factored in.
- It was commented that the budget priorities survey was conducted on a short timeline, and that only a small percentage of parents had responded. More community input would be valuable. Mr. Monreal responded that input is being requested from stakeholders, and that people can make comments at every Board meeting. Efforts will be made to improve use of survey tools.
- Board Trustee Shonick asked for data correlating the number of hours students spent in homework clubs and grade improvement. Principal Dick Davis commented that there are different sorts of needs for homework at the high schools. Many students need math and science help. Some prefer to work in the classroom with their teacher.
- Asst. Supt. Molly Parks commented that one-time monies could be well spent on math adoption and science curriculum materials, which are usually updated every 7 years.
- It was noted that Special Ed is a huge cost to the district. Intervention services are important because they keep students from needing Special Ed services, which are more costly.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Monreal concluded the meeting with his appreciation for the community's input and commitment to education, as evidenced by the community support for parcel taxes. He invited the public to attend the Board Meeting on June 17, 2015 for the public hearing on the proposed 2015-16 budget. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Monreal

Asst. Supt., Business Services