

10/20/08 BudCom Minutes

Members Present: SP, GM, RV, DD, DP, LR, GD by teleconference

Members Absent: FM

Mtg. was called to order at 6:15 PM

- LR moved to accept the minutes of the 8/25 meeting, 2nd by GD, motion passed 7-0
- LR moved to accept the minutes of the 9/16 mtg, 2nd by LR
 - o DP had concerns:
 - Line item budget is not quarterly per se, but “regularly” is more accurate – not every line item either, but “general categories”
 - Address spots where Dan is quoted after he left the meeting – move “Dan Peterson left the meeting at 7:15” to the end of the minutes
 - o LR amended the motion to accept the 9/16 mtg minutes as amended, 2nd by DP, motion passed 4-0-3 with non-attendees abstaining
- Discussion about the committee’s 0% recommendation occurred, with comments from the members who did not vote for the original motion
 - o GD
 - The inevitable unexpected expense makes 0% very difficult
 - Supports the formula of 2 yr. rolling CPI avg. + the change in ADM -- approx. 3-4% this yr – we must carefully cite sources on these #'s
 - o LR
 - Zero is a great goal, but unrealistic
 - Supports formula of 2 yr. CPI + change in ADM
 - o DP
 - SB is committed to a “decrease in the increase”, probably 3.0-3.5% for this yr.
 - If we don’t agree to a new prof. staff contract, the cost of that item will still go about roughly 2.5%, which will have a roughly 1.5% increase on the overall budget
 - Only way to get to 0% is to cut headcount
- Taking those comments, SP brought discussion to the committee’s “target areas”, on the topic of could we find \$600k-\$700k in cost savings to achieve a 0% increase?
 - o Various members – we should look at employee headcount, with ADM going down, should headcount go down?
 - o Professional staff contract
 - SP - Alignment with typical taxpayer on levels of growth
 - DD – We pay 100% of LTD until age 65
 - DP – We pay 100% of dental
 - SP – Total cost of healthcare is \$1560/month – no deductibles, low co-pays

- DP – SB is focused on “total compensation” for negotiations
 - Transportation
 - DP – We are only obligated by statute to transport middle-schoolers, SB is exploring options
 - Dues
 - SP – Currently \$28k
 - SPED
 - We should invite Bob Kelley to a BC mtg, DD is request FM to coordinate this since he was effective in doing so last year
 - Energy
 - Fuel cost is up \$175k from last year based on pre-buy of 140,000 gallons @ \$3.49/gal vs. \$2.24/gal last year
 - Concerns over the “lock-in” process at the SAU with 1 person being able to lock-in the price without input from others
 - SP:
 - Alliances/consortiums
 - Energy conservation program for students
 - Waiting on last 5 yrs. energy consumption data
 - Books
 - Middle school budget should go down according to Pat
 - What are cost savings by converting to online texts?
 - Foreign Language
 - DD – Look at Rosetta Stone or other pilot programs
 - Is there a better way to provide foreign language to our students?
 - Expendable Supplies
 - Dollars and process
 - Facilities/Services
 - Economies of scale
- Expansion warrant article might be on ballot
- SP to talk to TE to see how BC participated in budget workshop
- LR made a motion to adjourn at 9:50PM, 2nd by GM, motion carried 7-0