



DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Tuesday, December 18, 2018
Special School Board Budget Meeting Minutes
Sustainability Academy Community Room
5 PM

Commissioners in Attendance: Curry, Fisher, Wool, Barlow, Wick, Gulick, Waltz, Pillsbury, Ivancic, Steven, Olwell, Gorman

Absent: Gorman left early before team activity

1. **Opening Items**

A. Welcome

Board decided not to do the pledge of the allegiance.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

A. Motion to approve agenda

Motion Ivancic

Second Carey

3. **Public Comment**

A. Comments from the public

No one spoke

4. **Budget Discussion**

Superintendent Obeng delivered expectations for meeting. To focus on the budget and focusing on getting closer to give the staff more information. Wool also encouraged board to work on coming away with a budgeting range. Use the “crucial conversations” parking lot.

Obeng personal goals for the evening: 1) give the board enough information so that they can provide parameters around increasing the budget.

2) Look at how does it fit into our bigger plan

3) Have a conversation around multi-year approach

Stephanie Phillips presentation related to the achievement gap. “BSD Coaching Model: The Cornerstone to Closing the Achievement Gap.” Dialogic model is what was decided would be the best fit for BSD. It is researched based and we are working with University of Kansas, researcher working with our teams now.

Mattie and Naudi Beconger Instructional Coach at Hunt Middle discussed the work being done at Hunt. Both teachers and students now have personal learning plans. Getting positive feedback on the model. Over 50% of staff have proactively reached out to support. Nadia passed out feedback.



Colleen Cowell and Terra Lasardin, Doriene Dorfman talked about work at Champlain. “As classroom teachers, we need all the support we can get.” Terry covered Multi-Tiered System of Supports and says about 46/47% of kids are not meeting proficiency when it should be closer to 20%. Across 6 elementary schools. 58% are not meeting proficiency. Data shows we need to create first tiered learning which is done through long-term instructional coaching model with embedded coaches. Intervention is a tier 2 strategy. Intervention for 59% of students is never going close the achievement gap. The Intervention model does not support tier 1 instruction. Across the District over the last 3 years each school proficiency percentage has dropped. Dorfman praised the coaching model in the school and the work that has gone into it.

Phillips explained that coaching is an allowable expense from Title 2 federal funds. We cannot use Title 2 funds for special education, intervention, or teachers. Title 2 also does not support one-off training. They want embedded, district-wide coaching models.

Board broke into groups of 2 and then into groups for 4 to talk about different areas.

Pillsbury, Olwell, Ivancic, Gulick, Group1: Support for youngest learners, para support. Social worker support in elementary.

Carey, Wick, Waltz, Group2: Asking about tier 1 instruction wondering what is lacking. Wondering about what variables are determined in determining tier 1.

Wool, Jenneman, Fisher, Barlow, Group 3: talked about RP and how funds should be used. Questions about details for big-ticket item like RP with suspensions.

Groups then tasked with looking at different groupings and thinking about 3 line items in each area that are definite things that should be supported immediately and 2 or 3 areas that can wait.

Group 3 was with equitable climate culture. Picked yes and no with busses. They need more info and data around why they are all wants and needs. What is driving all the asks? Can some be phased in? What is the actual plan for alternative suspension plan? No for middle RP. Yes for staff training for RP and yes for social support.

Feedback: Board requested 1-5 minute explanation on each ask.

Group 2: K-paras a yes. Yes for guidance counselors but asking for more. PreK classrooms. Para. No nos. Delay IT investments. Delay data team.

Group1: Inclusive teaching: yes para. Lower priority is drama coach. Learning towards security systems. Delay plow/tractor. Ask City to buy a plow with Pilot funds.

Board members given 5 dots to place on line times. Board invited systems leaders to participate as well. Staff in the room explained any line item which received a dot.

Nathan Lavery gave a budget update. All new investments would cost \$5 million +. Talked about the General Fund as the lead thing that drives the tax rate. Ended presentation with hypothetical tax rates based on \$0 of new investment to \$5.37 million of investment. We have to tell the city by January 22nd



what we want the bond language to be. Have to present intentions, even incomplete, to City Council by Jan 7.

Groups reconvened to talk about the different tax rates and investments and reported out to the broader room.

Group2: b/t 4 and 5% range, unanimously. Curry: seems like voters would support that. Wick: this will take us closer to success.

Group 1 between 4-5% and start thinking longer term, 3 year budget cycles.

Group 3: 3-4%. Be wary of the upcoming BHS bond impact in future years.

Yaw: things I have heard: continue to bring forward other ways to support this, show a clear plan for what they are used for.

Fisher and others are in support of talking to City about Pilot funds.

5. Superintendent's Report

A. BHS ReEnvisioning Construction Management PreQualification

Nathan: discusses prequalification process. Board sets criteria. They decide who is prequalified. Then after bids come in, the lowest bidder who is pre-qualified gets the bid.

Curry, Ivancic, Waltz left.

Pillsbury motion to accept.

Gulick second.

Wick asked if Marty has concerns.

Barlow on behalf of Curry, please add energy efficiency.

Fisher: can we include prior customer feedback. It is on here.

Wick: does this get us ahead of the City MOU? Marty said they will be involved in the prequalified process in some way.

Gulick asked about conflicts of interest in the process. Lavery advised you would want to consider recusing yourself if a spouse or child would benefit from a company becoming prequalified.

Barlow: amend the motion to include language that specifies that candidates have proven experience in energy efficiencies.

Fisher: seconded

All in favor of accepting the amended criteria.

All in favor of adoption motion.

6. Facilities & Finance Committee

- A. 2013 BSD RFP
- B. 2013 Technical Proposal Black River
- C. Black River 2013 Financial Proposal
- D. 2013 BSD Construction Bid Summary



E. BSD Letter of Recommendation from Marty Spaulding
Fisher: are we wed to BRP? Marty: You run the risk of not meeting timeline, having different designs, not having the same budget. Gulick noted we would also lose the institutional knowledge.

Pillsbury: Motion that the board enter into a contract with Black River Design for the base amount of \$4,049,569.00 for architectural and engineering design services for the voter-approved \$70m BHS ReEnvisioning Project.

Olwell: Second

Questions about fees and reasonableness. Marty says it looks reasonable.

All in favor. None opposed. None abstained.

**Fisher: Motion to consider executive session.
Second Barlow**

All in favor. None Opposed.

Wool: Read language for bond.

7. Executive Session

A. Negotiations: Motion to consider Executive Session under 1 V.S.A. 313 (a) (1) (A), (B), (C), (E) and (F) because pre-mature general public knowledge would put the district at a substantial disadvantage.

8. Adjournment

A. Motion to adjourn