

BEAR VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 15, 2009, 2:30 P.M.

Present:

Dr. Rudy Macioge, Interim Superintendent/BVUSD
Walter Con, Director of Business Services/BVUSD
Mike Ghelber, Principal/BBHS (Alternate)
Jeanette Haston, Principal/BBES
Mary Kelso, Community Member/Parent
Alan Caldwell, BVEA President
Beverly Grabe, Board Trustee/BVUSD
Tim Larson, Director of Special Programs/BVUSD
Cass Kuck, CSEA President

Absent:

Tina Fulmer, Assistant Principal/BBHS

Also Present:

Bonnie South, CSEA Vice President
Jim McGowan
Julann Warren
Kam Lawrence

- 1.0 Call to Order: Dr. Macioge called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.
- 2.0 Adoption of Agenda: Dr. Macioge called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mrs. Grabe made a motion to adopt the agenda for this meeting. Second by Mr. Con. A vote in favor of the motion was unanimously approved.
- 3.0 Minutes: Dr. Macioge called for a motion to accept the minutes from September 1, 2009. Mrs. Grabe made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Larson. A vote in favor of the motion was unanimously approved.
- 4.0 Public Comments: Mrs. Lawrence suggested that a 4-day school week be considered. Her research shows that schools that have gone to this schedule, love it and have estimated between 10-20% savings. Dr. Macioge directed it be put on the list. Mrs. Warren commented that it seems the district is looking at just cutting/eliminating athletics and art/music programs. She didn't want the district to lose sight of the fact that these programs are the only reason some students show up for school. She asked for clarification on #21 (Eliminate BBMS Art Program) specifically, does that include performing arts, music, and/or art classes. Mr. Con will check on that.
- 5.0 State/District Budget Update: Mr. Con stated there is still not a lot of information coming from Sacramento. There is more talk that the governor is seeking a waiver so he won't lose the \$8 billion of stimulus money, but as it stands without the waiver, he

can cut about \$21 per ADA which would effect our district an additional \$67,000. Mr. Con stated we are trying to balance the cuts to make it the least painful and still maintain fiscal solvency. The board signed a resolution at Budget Development to have a plan in place by December to make cuts of \$2.4 million over the next 3 years; the little bit of good news is his recommendation to the board on Wednesday will be to revise that figure to \$1.45 million over that same period. The composition of these cuts would be FY2009-10: \$255,000 (in addition to the \$340,000 already cut), FY2010-11: \$600,000, and FY2011-12: \$600,000. Mr. Con explained that Budget Revise is not an official document, but information and a planning tool for the board to make budget cuts. He added that these cuts will simply lower the rate of deficit spending; we are still in a situation where our fund balance will decrease each year. Dr. Macioge pointed out we still need to itemize specific cuts in each of those years. Mr. Con reminded committee members that budget cuts are always subject to change.

6.0 Discussion of Menu of Unrestricted Budget Reductions: Mr. Con went over the document "Menu of Unrestricted Budget Reductions" dated 9/2/09. Mr. Con reminded everyone that this is just a list of items to choose from, not necessarily cuts we are making right now. Dr. Macioge thanked Mrs. Warren for the suggestion to put the minutes from the meetings on the website as we did last year and will get that done. The following are some of the suggestions/questions brought forth by Mr. Ghelber (representing the secondary principals):

- #1 (Elimination of Director of Curriculum/Instruction) - How are we saving money if we have the same number of Administrative staff at the district office as we did before the elimination of this position? Mr. Con explained that an entire restructure took place where the Director of Pupil Services replaced both the Coordinator of Special Ed and School Psychologist positions.
- #15 (Increase class size to 30...) – Increase to 32. Mr. Larson explained that we are at 24.94 right now and has to be looked at carefully to determine the cost savings.
- #17 & 18 (Increase contacts to 165/170) – Increase to 180. Dr. Macioge explained that these contact numbers are contractual and would have to be negotiated.
- #42 (Reduce Textbook Expenditures)- Are we putting off adoption? Mr. Larson stated yes; we still get funding, but it is now unrestricted. The State has allowed us to put off adopting until 2013-14. We are designating funds for replacement costs each year. The goal is to have \$250,000-\$300,000 to do an adoption when we get to 2013-14. Mr. Ghelber is looking into a textbook management system. He did a study over the past 3 years, which showed that BBHS could have saved \$22,000 a year in textbook replacement costs. The system he is looking at costs \$6,000. He requested that this suggestion be put on the list.
- Suggests closing Big Bear Elementary, make the Middle School 6-8 and send the elementary principal over as Middle School Vice Principal.
- #31 (Eliminate Library aides) – Why are there 4 positions reflected and not 5? Mr. Con will confirm that number.

Mr. Ghelber went on to list items on the menu that some didn't agree with. Mr. Larson reminded everyone that we are trying to add ideas to this list, not necessarily what isn't agreed with. Mr. Ghelber asked that some things the High School had already cut be added to the list i.e. the AVID program, elimination of a High School Counselor, and the loss of two teacher positions. Mr. Con stated that the loss of teacher positions corresponds with the natural reduction of staff due to declining enrollment. Mr. Ghelber just wants to show what contributions his school has made to the budget cuts. Mrs. Kuck brought up the costs of consultants the district is using. Mr. Con stated we only have three - Sandy Sanford's contract is paid from restricted Title II funds and has been substantially reduced from \$100,000 to \$20,000 this year. The other two consultants are used for required psychologist services and are paid no more than \$5,000 each out of Special Ed funds. Mr. Caldwell asked if there is some way to use that \$80,000 savings to offset unrestricted costs. Mr. Larson said it could only be used for staff development. Mr. Caldwell asked about any money being used from unrestricted for staff development now. He added this might be a good thing to document - where we can and can't use unrestricted and restricted funds. Mrs. Kuck asked why Sandy Sanford's position went from \$100,000 to \$20,000. Mr. Con explained that from a program standpoint we don't need as much help; we have achieved a level of accomplishment through the value he has provided. Dr. Macioge added that the TRAC coaches are part of that. Mrs. Kuck asked about stipends that are not addressed on this list. It was explained that most teacher stipends are contractual and are a negotiated item. Dr. Macioge directed putting stipends on the list. Mr. Con will provide the committee with the stipend salary schedules. Mrs. Kelso brought up whether we need as many paid coaches as we currently have. Mrs. Kelso suggested could we get community volunteers to coach instead of paid positions. Mrs. Kuck asked about after-school intervention costs. Mr. Larson said it pays for itself with a 14 to 1 ratio. Mrs. Haston brought up private industry advertising on our busses and/or school equipment/property. She also brought up selling advertising on our website. Dr. Macioge and Mr. Con do not think we can advertise on a public school bus. Mr. Caldwell read that companies are bartering for scoreboards, etc. in exchange for advertising. Mr. Ghelber brought up cell phone companies do similar bartering to put up their towers. Mrs. Haston offered to contact companies. Mrs. Kuck suggested different ways to raise money for athletic transportation i.e. charge \$100.00 per student, ask service clubs for help. Mr. Caldwell asked if there is any way to maximize the use of special ed transportation bussing. Mr. Con explained some of this is driven by IEP's, but we can look at again. Mr. Caldwell suggested looking at the radius restriction on who gets bussed to schools. Mr. Con stated that Transportation doesn't encroach on our general budget currently with the exception of a legally forced minor encroachment used to get the same allocation each year. Mr. Caldwell suggested purchasing additional suburbans to offset costs of using bus transportation. Dr. Macioge said we are looking at ways to replace the ones we have now, but that is something to look at. Mr. Con addressed the question of costs of using our bus vs. charter and it is equal. Mr. Caldwell suggests showing what constitutes the total costs of using our busses such as gas, oil, insurance, mechanics, drivers, replacement parts.

Mrs. Kuck asked if Rainbow Kids Club encroaches on our budget. Mr. Con said utility costs, but it would be minimal and would be hard to segregate as they are on the same meters. Mrs. Kuck asked about the new Special Ed supervisor position created and filled when it was known to encroach on general fund. Mr. Con explained it was a title change only from Special Ed Coordinator to Director of Pupil Services. Mrs. Kuck understood that a teacher, was assigned to this position. Mrs. Haston explained that there is a teacher on assignment helping Jacque Williams. It was suggested to put the TOA position on the list. Mrs. Kuck offered a suggestion restricting use of school facilities to school use only. Dr. Macioge said add to the list; they are currently looking at existing use and fees policies and comparing park district fees. Mrs. Kuck questioned why would subs be paid after students go home on SPAA days. Discussion followed regarding pay rates for substitutes. Mrs. Kelso had a suggestion to ask suppliers to discount their rates by 3-5%. Mrs. Kelso added this could include consultants. Dr. Macioge said that Mr. Sanford is an excellent example in that he continues to provide services to the district that is not part of his contract. Mrs. Haston wanted to say that she represents the other elementary principals with the following suggestions:

- Centralize TRAC coaches to use them as a district resource.
- Centralize enrollment and registration
- Streamlining librarian positions as some school needs are less than others
- Charge for transportation. Mr. Con said we can't legally charge for athletic transportation, and there are other issues to consider in charging for regular transportation to school.
- Trim secretarial staff at the district office
- Sell stuff in the portables by garage sale/eBay/surplus company
- Collaborate with outside sources to keep arts/music programs
- Revoke full day kindergarten
- Close a school and lease to generate revenue
- Sell property. Mr. Con cautioned it is one time money and depending on funds used to purchase, we might have to give money back to the state.

Mr. Caldwell offered the following suggestions:

- How much savings came from retirement incentives last year
- ADA incentive program
- Boost revenue
- Title I and Title II funds to offset unrestricted costs

7.0 New Business: Dr. Macioge hopes we can set up specific dates to go around to schools at the next meeting. He asked for input on how to best set up for these open meetings. The intent is to open it up to staff, parents, and the community. Next meeting is Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

8.0 Adjournment: Dr. Macioge called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Dr. Macioge. A vote in favor of the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Macioge adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.