

BEAR VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD OCTOBER 27, 2009, 2:30 P.M.

Present:

Dr. Nancy Wright, Superintendent/BVUSD
Walter Con, Director of Business Services/BVUSD
Beverly Grabe, Board Trustee/BVUSD
Mary Kelso, Community Member/Parent
Alan Caldwell, BVEA President
Bonnie South, CSEA President
Tim Larson, Director of Special Programs/BVUSD
Kevin Amburgey, Principal/NSES
Mike Ghelber, Principal/BBHS

Absent:

Jeanette Haston, Principal/BBES
Tina Fulmer, Assistant Principal/BBHS

Also Present:

Jenny Deisler, Library Clerk, BBHS
Diane Thompson, Teacher/Media Specialist, BBHS
David Ford, CSEA
Russ Reynolds
Sue Reynolds, Teacher, BBHS
Linda Pyles, Teacher, BBHS

- 1.0 Call to Order: Dr. Wright called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.
- 2.0 Adoption of Agenda: Dr. Wright 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. Wright called for a motion to accept the minutes from September 29, 2009. Mrs. Grabe made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Mrs. South. A vote in favor of the motion was unanimously approved.
- 4.0 Public Comments: Mrs. Diane Thompson, BBHS Teacher and Librarian, defended the importance and value of the library and her position to the district. She provided a packet of information for the committee to read which included librarian statements from herself, Jenny Deisler, and Julie Nettlebeck, as well as, library statistics, staff and student support letters, and a letter to the editor. Mrs. Jenny Deisler, BBHS Library Clerk, spoke on some of the many uses of the BBHS library and listed the many duties she performs.
- 5.0 State/District Budget Update: Mr. Con handed out copies of two articles published by School Services of California entitled " Many Uncertainties Place 2009-10 State Budget in Peril" and "What State Receivership Means and Why It's Best to Avoid It." He pointed out

the areas on the first document that show the “General Fund revenues are off almost \$1.9 billion” this year and “an overall state deficit of \$7.5 billion in 2010-11 is projected, with projected deficits of more than \$15 billion in each of the following years.” He reminded everyone that the district has lost about \$3.5 million in revenue. He added that there is a little bit of good news, that an additional reduction of \$43,000 in expenses has been identified to bring the total of minimum additional budget cuts for this year from \$250,000 to \$207,000. Dr. Wright stated that Cabinet is going through more than 3,000 line items in the district budget. She added that the board expects us to examine every area possible.

- 6.0 Discussion of Menu of Unrestricted Budget Reductions: Mr. Con handed out the “Menu of Potential Revenue Enhancements” form and the “Menu of Unrestricted Budget Reductions” form. Discussion followed regarding the merits of having a School Attendance Officer. Mrs. Grabe shared about her experiences as a Principal going to student’s home and found it could be rather dangerous in some instances. Mrs. South suggested the possibility of using TRAC coaches helping by making phone contacts. Mrs. Kelso shared that a parent in one of the Booster Clubs had worked up numbers on how much the district could save if we hired an Attendance Officer. She also suggested educating parents regarding attendance rules. Mr. Caldwell commented that his group thought that rather than hire someone; teachers could be doing a lot of this themselves. Mr. Con said that the challenge with that is other more pressing matters can get in the way of following through, whereas an assigned person can concentrate solely on this issue. Mr. Caldwell agreed and said that a formal program would have to be in place, but there are still things they could be doing now. Mr. Ghelber brought up the kids that are truant to go skiing in the winter. Mrs. Kelso suggested working with the ski areas to post signage that school ID’s would be checked on school days. Mr. Ghelber said a lot of parents allow their kids to ski rather than go to school and thought there should be a legal way to hold them accountable if their student is caught. Mr. Ghelber brought up centralizing control of utilities. Discussion followed on what can be done to save energy costs including getting staff to shut lights and turn down thermostats when possible. Mr. Caldwell suggested setting a goal target month to implement conserving energy and then compare costs from last year. He added that at the High School, staff can’t access their temperature controls. Dr. Wright talked about incentive programs, such as a contest where the savings goes back to the winning building for them to use as they wish. Mr. Con said we are being faced with a total 18% increase from the electric company so we absolutely need to conserve just to maintain parity. Mr. Caldwell had a member of his group suggest schools be shut down in entirety when not being used. Dr. Wright said considerations would have to be made to avoid frozen pipes, etc. Mrs. Grabe shared information from a board member regarding an education foundation in Irvine whose sole purpose is to raise money to keep programs going. Mr. Con pointed out it is on the list, but it does take some time to put together. Dr. Wright asked for input from group representatives regarding their recommended budget cuts. Mrs. Kelso, representing parents/community, shared her discussion with the booster clubs and parents and compiled a list of suggestions (copy attached). They focused on revenue enhancing ideas such as getting corporate sponsorships rather than cutting programs. Mr. Ghelber, representing the secondary administrators, read the list of items (copies attached). Mrs. South, representing classified staff, read her list of suggestions from her group (copies attached). She explained they had two lists with different totals. She added her group’s general feeling is that they would rather see programs go before people.

Mr. Amburgey, representing the elementary administrators, said his group's suggestions was for two years only: this year reduce instructional days from 180 to 175 and restructuring the Director of Student Services position. Additionally, in the next year: eliminate Meet the Masters program, look at class sizes at the elementary, and eliminate HS librarian position and continue the reduction of instructional days from 180 to 175. Mr. Caldwell, representing certificated staff, shared his group's suggestions which included: using reserves, stop all conference and workshops, close a school, sell or lease the Moonridge property, restructure teaching positions currently paid from restricted funding so they can be paid from unrestricted funds, and keep librarians. Dr. Wright commended everyone for the time they put into this process.

- 7.0 New Business: Dr. Wright asked the group for dates to meet to complete the process. Mr. Con said the original plan was to give the suggestions to the board by November 4, but that has tentatively been changed to November 9 and they would have a week to make their decision by November 16. Mr. Ghelber asked if there would be a time for principals to have further input in defending any of the suggested cuts. Mr. Con explained the process dictates that you have to work through your representative committee member. Mrs. Kelso suggested having a master list of each group's picks for the first year, second year, etc. She agreed to merge these lists. The group discussed possible dates to meet. The consensus was to meet on Friday, 10/30 from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m., Monday 11/2 from 8:00 – 10:30 a.m., and Tuesday 11/3 from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. - locations to be verified by email. Dr. Wright instructed members to go back to their groups and thank them for their help. Dr. Wright thanked the audience for attending and asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Mr. Ford suggested the idea of having a public forum for anyone who cannot make the afternoon meetings with the possibility to debate the suggestions before they become final.
- 8.0 Adjournment: Dr. Wright called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Con made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Larson. A vote in favor of the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Wright adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

The next meeting is Friday, October 30, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.