

BEAR VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 22, 2009, 2:30 P.M.

Present:

Dr. Rudy Macioge, Interim Superintendent/BVUSD
Walter Con, Director of Business Services/BVUSD
Tina Fulmer, Assistant Principal/BBHS
Kevin Amburgey/Principal NSES (Alternate)
Mary Kelso, Community Member/Parent
Alan Caldwell, BVEA President
Bonnie South, CSEA President
Beverly Grabe, Board Trustee/BVUSD
Tim Larson, Director of Special Programs/BVUSD

Absent:

Jeanette Haston, Principal/BBES

Also Present:

Dr. Nancy Wright, Superintendent (via teleconference call)
Cass Kuck, CSEA Vice President
Scott Hird, BVEA Vice President
Juliana McDonald, Parent
Miles McDonald, Student
Debrah Lydon, BVUSD

- 1.0 Call to Order: Dr. Macioge called the meeting to order at 2:33 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 Mrs. Fulmer. 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 15, 2009. Mrs. Grabe made a motion to accept the minutes. Second by Mrs. Fulmer. Mr. Con made a correction on page 6 to change the additional proposed FY2009 budget cuts in the amount of \$255,000 to \$250,000. A vote in favor of the motion was unanimously approved.
- 4.0 Public Comments: Mrs. McDonald spoke against the closure of school libraries. She read a letter about her son, Miles' love of reading and "Library Day" and how it has helped him to be successful in school. She offered suggestions of ways to save money: a) Consider charging (even a minimal amount) for bus transportation; b) Stop giving away free lunches; c) Consider reducing the hours of custodians, noon duty aides and cafeteria workers; d) Consider reducing part of the health benefits paid for board trustees. She shared a comment from a conversation she had with the school librarian that if we go to a self-service library, just the cost of re-inventorying and counting the items that never show up again would be terrible.

- 5.0 State/District Budget Update: Mr. Con gave a PowerPoint presentation of FY2009 Unaudited Actuals & FY2010 Budget Revise which was presented to the board on September 16, 2009. Dr. Macioge stated this is basically the presentation that we will be taking to the public meetings. Mr. Con addressed Mrs. McDonald's suggestion to eliminate the free lunch program and explained that free and reduced lunches do not cost the district; that money comes from the state and federal government. He also addressed Mrs. McDonald's suggestion to charge for home-to-school transportation. He explained this would not be a budget cut as transportation is restricted funding and is not encroaching on the general fund at this time. Mr. Con said he would have copies of this presentation emailed to committee members. Dr. Macioge added we will also have it on the district website. Mr. Con handed out a news article that shows examples of the impact of budget cuts on other districts. Dr. Macioge added if you have contacts in other districts talk to them about the advantages and disadvantages of the cuts they are making and the impact this is having on themselves and their students.
- 6.0 Discussion of Menu of Unrestricted Budget Reductions: Mr. Con handed out the document "Menu of Unrestricted Budget Reductions dated 9-22-09." The areas highlighted in green are potential cuts that need to be negotiated with bargaining units. Each time the menu is updated, the new suggestions will be in marked in red. These are the ones that were brought up at the last meeting:
- Item #13 – Decrease Instructional Days. Under new rules from the state, we can go from 180 to 175 instructional days a year for this year and the next 2 years and receive the same revenue. This item would need to be negotiated with the bargaining units, but if we dropped 5 days this year, we could save about \$350,000.
 - Item #14 - Increase contacts to 180 in secondary grades. No numbers yet.
 - Item #15 - Reduce Extra Duty Stipends. Handed out Certificated Salary Schedule Appendix C.
 - Item #20 – Reduce District Office support staff. Still looking at this.
 - Item #21 – Renegotiate contracts with vendors. Office Depot declined to go any lower. We are checking with the others.
 - Item #28 – Eliminate Special Ed TOA. Salary is shown.
 - Item #48 – Reduce SPAA day subs to $\frac{3}{4}$ day. With an estimated 7 subs we would save \$5,500.
 - Item #49 – Reduce school week to 4 days. There is plenty of information on the Internet; most of the savings come from transportation. Still a consideration.
 - Item #50 - School closure. The challenge is how much do you save. Put it out there in 3rd year as a placeholder. Gives us time to look at enrollment.
 - Item #51 - Reduce utility budget. We spend about \$1,000,000/yr. We pulled out \$20,000 this year. May need it back if we have a bad winter or rates increase.
 - Item #52 – Retirement Incentives. We actually had a small cost to us this year due to benefit costs, but will see bigger savings in subsequent years in salary savings.
 - Item #53 - Reduce full day kindergarten. There is no cost savings to go back to $\frac{1}{2}$ day, actually increases costs due to transportation.

- Item #54 - Reduce consultant contracts. No savings as these are paid out of restricted funds.
- Items #55-60 – Various programs. No savings as these are paid out of restricted funds except for technology.

Dr. Macioge stated the board has requested that every program we have be listed on this menu. Mrs. Grabe asked for clarification on the costs associated with Meet the Masters program. Mr. Larson stated that the \$18,000 is the teacher's salary. Mr. Con asked for input on any format changes to this form. There were no suggestions for changes.

7.0 New Business: The next meeting is Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Macioge will notify the school sites of the meetings on Thursday, September 24, 2009, 1:25 p.m. at Big Bear Middle School and 2:45 p.m. at North Shore Elementary. Also, Monday, September 28, 2009, 7:30 a.m. at Big Bear High. He would appreciate it if all committee members could be there. Dr. Macioge asked for input on additional ideas on the format for these meetings. He added that the Budget Reduction suggestions form will be available to gather input from staff and/or the public. Mr. Larson suggested we make sure that Chautauqua and all classified staff be made aware of these meetings. Mrs. Kelso suggested that we make sure the people know we are looking for revenue building ideas and that we consider establishing a separate committee to focus on these issues. Dr. Wright thanked the committee for taking the initiative to go out and get feedback and ideas. Mrs. Grabe reported that the Board is very concerned that everything remains transparent. Mrs. South said she is very concerned that reducing energy costs are not a high priority with staff. She sees classrooms with lights left on and the heating is not turned down. Mr. Con said we have some energy saving devices due to modernization at the Middle School, but it really comes down to behavior modification. Mrs. Kelso suggested personalizing it by equating the savings to the cost of someone losing a job. Mrs. Grabe suggested putting up signs where people are constantly reminded. Mrs. Fulmer said we should be paying attention to the small things such things as wasting paper, printer ink, etc. Mrs. Kelso would like to see if the cuts to programs such as arts or sports could be equitable rather than an entire program cut.

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

Dr. Macioge adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.