



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1015 Seventh Street • Novato • CA • 94945 • nusd.org

NOTES

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE ***A Superintendent's Advisory Committee***

District Office – 1015 7th Street, Novato – Room 107
February 26, 2024 – 5 to 7 pm

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Josh started the meeting at 5:01 PM.

2. Budget / Enrollment Updates

- Budget in flux due to Second Interim, which will be presented to the Board on 3/19
- Slide 4 = budget as of today
 - First Interim = As of October 1st
 - Expenses have gone down \$1.9M while Jeff continues to work on the budget
 - Books & Supplies have gone down due to programmatic changes
 - Example: IT had money held in multiple places for the same purpose
 - Supplies is a huge category, also relates to a lot of M&O supplies
 - Classified Salaries & Employee Benefits have gone down due to Position Control monitoring and vacant positions
- Enrollment
 - NHS and SMHS are closing the gap in number of students enrolled
 - NPS has grown over past several years, those can cost \$100,000-\$150,000 each.
 - Attendance is still around 94%
 - Josh would like to do a Demographic Study to see how many children and homes/apartments are in Novato – current estimate is 1 kid per 7 apartments, 1 kid per 3 houses. This equation is commonly used, from CASBO
 - There is a Developer Study out right now to see about raising to ~\$5 per sq. ft
 - Enrollment projection is based on trends over previous years
 - Don asked what caused recent enrollment increases? Josh answered we should also ask: why the decrease? After 19-20 (COVID), we dropped by 500. Jen added that at SMHS, there are small outgoing classes, huge incoming classes.

3. Budget Education

a. Multi-Year Projection vs Budget

- i. MYP is required as part of the budget
- ii. California government looks at current year and *last* two years. NUSD looks at current and *next* two years.
- iii. Restricted resources like Special Education (around \$16 million cost, we are only given \$2 million so difference comes from general fund)

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- iv. CDE requires 3% be saved for M&O
- v. Reserve for Economic Uncertainty – CDE requires you save an additional 3% in case the California government cannot fund us (not a lot of money compared to total budget).
- vi. Unappropriated Fund Balance – left over amount that carries over, considered our reserves
- vii. NUSD does not get much federal funds
- viii. If absolutely necessary, we could self-borrow from bond funds
- ix. One-time COVID funds are being moved from unrestricted into restricted, to offset costs
- x. School Services of California dart board, presented by Jeff
- xi. COLA, ADA, and Enrollment – projections and predictions of adding 50 students per year based on TK eligibility and kids are coming back from COVID
- xii. Staff costs go up based on step and column increases, not necessarily raises or adding staff (typically cost of step/column is 2% increase for certificated, 1.5% increase for classified, classified sees higher turnover)

4. Site Funding Formula Decision

- a. The question from last meeting was do these categories cover what we need?
- b. We want to give the principals the ground work so they can take it to their sites
- c. Sara and Tina– prioritize libraries
- d. Joe– would like to eliminate the assumption that PTA will cover things
- e. Jen– how do we pay for libraries? Parcel Tax, School Fuel
- f. Josh– adding a column for libraries is fine, and that money can cover any library cost
 - i. Do we do flat amount? Alan suggested the amount is based on ADA
 - ii. Kate- For libraries, School Fuel chooses a number for elementary, higher for middle (incl. Hamilton), highest for high school
 - iii. Jen– It's about establishing a norm, or what is the baseline expectation?
 - iv. Josh- Sites need to define what General Need is
- g. Leasing copiers and their service is much cheaper than buying one, not to mention we get a new one every 5 years
- h. Tina- these funding factors can attract or repel families from attending certain schools
- i. Jen– clarification that this site money is NOT to be used on core curriculum
- j. Extensive discussion on how to make purchasing access easier for teachers to avoid reimbursements. Josh- we have a system in place with Amazon, Office Depot, and Home Depot

5. Site Budget Form Discussion (addressed in item 4)

6. Questions / Comments (none due to extensive discussion)

7. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM

NEXT MEETING DATE
Monday, March 11, 2024