



Philomath Public Schools

Benton County School District 17J, 1620 Applegate Street, Philomath OR 97370 (541) 929-3169

Community Survey & Group Work Session Budget Development Summary

As part of our budget development process, a simple web-based survey was created to solicit feedback on some suggested reductions. More than 532 responses were received from parents (n=341), community members (n=255), volunteers (n=147), district employees (n=107), and students (n=47) – note: some respondents were listed in multiple categories (e.g. parent and volunteer). The following is a summary of some key survey elements:

- 51% in favor versus 25% against an athletic fee increase
- 59% against versus 19% in favor of eliminating athletic opportunities
- 68% in favor versus 8.5% against reducing cash fund balance
- 38% in favor versus 21% against reducing transfers to other funds
- 53% against versus 22% in favor of reducing course offerings
- 49% against versus 25% in favor of increasing class sizes
- 76% in favor versus 3% against returning Driver's Education as an after-school program
- 65% in favor versus 11% against asking non-profit organizations to help with facility maintenance
- 74% in favor versus 10% against increasing facility use fees
- 44% in favor versus 35% against implementing a four-day school week
- 60% in favor versus 23% against using more than two or any furlough days to balance the budget
- 60% in favor versus 9% against selling Kings Valley Charter School

As one can imagine, our survey generated several other budget reduction ideas, such as:

- Decrease salaries and benefits for all employees,
- Reduce transportation costs,
- Contract out for services (i.e. technology, custodial, maintenance, instruction),
- Utilize more volunteers for custodial services,
- Consolidate Philomath with other school districts,
- Reduce facility use/energy costs,
- Make Clemens Pool self-supporting,
- Review athletic expenses; Review the cost of all activities,
- Spend more Ending Fund Balance cash reserves,
- Increase high school class sizes; reduce elementary class sizes,
- Prioritize programs to fund – remediation, electives, advanced placement courses,
- Driver's Education as summer program only,
- Seek donation of services to replace/reduce maintenance costs,
- Provide a flexible fee schedule to recoup user groups facility use costs,
- Review positive and negative impacts to students, parents, and staff regarding a four-day week,
- Furlough days, if used as an option, should be consecutive, not sprinkled through the calendar.

Next year, through the use of retirements, reassignments, and reduction in force, we are budgeting to decrease supervisory, licensed, and classified positions for a targeted \$600,000 reduction in expense.

In order to save most instructional programs and keep class sizes at manageable levels, a recommendation to include five furlough days during the school year, \$185,000 reduction, is planned. Additional service and supply & material reductions (\$37,000) and an athletics pay-to-play fee increase of \$25 per sport (+\$13,200), have been suggested as a \$50,200 budget change. Spending \$150,000 in cash fund balance reserves will help contribute to our \$1,000,000 targeted reduction.

Staffing Change: 9.75 FTE reduction= approximately \$600,000, which include partial and full-time positions in: a) 5.5 FTE Licensed – physical education/health, language arts, media specialist, business, science, and special education, b) 2.75 FTE Classified – clerical, instructional assistance, and custodial, and c) 1.50 FTE Supervisory - maintenance supervisor and athletic director.

The 2011-12 budget was developed using an enrollment of 1,532 ADMr and a State School Fund (SSF) grant revenue allocation of \$7,944,992, which is based on an entire Oregon K-12 budget allocation for the 2011-2013 biennium of approximately \$5.67 billion. Our “weighted” enrollment, for SSF purposes, is estimated at 1786.5 ADMw. However, due to our declining enrollment and safety feature in the Oregon SSF formula, we will be funded at 1,811 ADMw, which is based on the prior year’s enrollment and will be 16.5 ADMw students less than last year.

Summary of 2011-12 Budget Proposed Changes
Reductions

Instruction and Support

Reduce licensed teaching positions	<\$ 311,000>
Reduce Supervisory Positions (Maint Supv. eliminated; AD duties to PHS Principal)	<\$ 156,000>
Reduce clerical, and custodial positions	<\$ 133,000>
Reduce Fund Transfers (\$13,200 offset by athletic fee increase)	<\$ 33,500>
Reduce Supply, Materials, and Utility costs	<\$ 37,000>
Reduce five contract days, all employees	<\$ 185,000>

Other Funds

Spend down Cash Reserves	<\$150,000>
--------------------------	-------------

Contractual Additions

Instruction and Support

Beneflex compensation with salary freezes (or step/column movement)	\$ 200,000
Supplemental/Early Retirement increase (\$417K, lessened with Fund #705 use)	\$ 260,000
PERS rate increase (\$400K, lessened with Fund #350 use)	\$ 345,000

In closing, our budget reflects a continuing effort to scale back expenses to meet our revenues during a period of economic downturn and declining enrollment. The 2011-2012 budget will incorporate staffing and program changes that will reduce our operating expenses and are supported by a majority of our community. Having said that, engaging the community in our process both supports some of our recommendations and creates some excellent suggestions, such as examining some of our long-standing practices (e.g. contracting out for more support services, balancing facility use costs with fee structures for user groups), which will lead to additional budget and program changes in the near future. This year’s recommended reductions are an effort to resize some of our instructional staff assignments, without losing important educational programs, while considering the effects on class size.

The following summary of our budget survey includes community group synthesis of written comments provided by parents, teachers, students and other community members. In addition, the

sticky notes comments offered by the 100 community members who attended our survey results feedback meeting are included for your review.

Community Survey & Feedback

General Thoughts/ Comments

Bus:

- Get rid of them
- Consolidate sports
- Pay for use

Staff:

- Administration-decrease
- Teachers salaries –decrease
- Healthcare benefits- decrease
- No unions
- Pay freeze
- Address PERS
- Share w/ different schools

Technology:

- Keep it updated
- Get rid of it
- Contract out instruction

Volunteers:

- Use PHS & PMS students to perform services
- Janitor volunteer
- Use OSU students as teachers

Facilities:

- Consolidate Alsea/KV/Blodgett/Corvallis
- Rent CPS to outside groups
- Shut down at night/reduce energy costs
- Solve for long-term
- Shut down pool

Outside Funding:

- Car washes
- Foundation like Lake Oswego
- Grants
- Sell Kings Valley
- Tax Levy
- Increase fees for extracurricular activities (or get rid of all extra activities)
- Advertise our school
- Use rainy day fund

Misc.

- Reduce paper
- Sack lunch days
- Pay to park if you live in town
- First time courses free
- Work w/ Chamber & city to develop plan to attract new families to Philomath

Post it notes:

1. Make pool pay for itself from \$90K +
2. Child labor-be careful not to shift responsibility too much THESE ARE KIDS
3. Technology is necessary to maintain competitive course offering. Will lose students if technology out –of –date or eliminated
4. Staff has already taken a cut this year. That cut added \$250,000 to the carry over amount.
5. Do we have to provide buses? Why .31 FTE \$ for contracted bus services?
6. Quality of education-State req. for teacher credentials.
7. Need visibility to data across the board-e.g. staff: student ratios, impacts of 4 day school weeks, ect. Admin/board seem to have but teachers/ community do not.
8. Provide detailed explanations of options so people have better understanding.
9. A bus for Corvallis passes us every morning as we wait for the Philomath bus- why can't those loads south of town come to Philomath? More \$
10. What about closing Blodgett school altogether? CPS/PES have enough room
11. Buses are not effective: during transportation to & from school there are ½ empty busses. Why not allow all student ride the bus. Children care told them they could not.
12. Contract out custodial-maint. Similar to food services

Service in Lieu Fees

1. Liability?
2. Quality of work-Supervision
If work sub-standard
*group charged janitorial/ custodial fee to correct
*charge cleaning deposit(refunded if cleaned correctly, withheld if not
3. Donated services from Professionals, leadership groups, job skill training
4. How to value service
5. Continuation of service if this is used to replace employee for maintenance?

Post it notes:

1. As far as liability is concerned people can sign waiver-volunteer spirit

Kings Valley Charter Property Sale

How will money from sale be used?

What exactly is for sale, building, land?

How are students impacted by the sale?

We need more facts!

How much is the lease

What is the relationship between PSD and KVCS

Does PSD maintain the facilities, carry insurance

Actual cost

Terms of sale? Sold to whom?

Why are we keeping a charter school?

Would it save PSD operating expenses now?

Benefits of keeping KVCS vs. benefits to selling it?

Estimate value of property and is this a good time to sell?

Post it notes:

1. KVCS insurance cost? Maintenance cost?
2. What are the benefits to keeping KV school?
3. Why is KV's enrollment increasing? How can they afford to buy the facility?
4. Don't the KV kids generate state income in excess of the city kids? What happens to that money?

Kings Valley Charter Property Sale

How will money from sale be used?

What exactly is for sale, building, land?

How are students impacted by the sale?

We need more facts!

How much is the lease

What is the relationship between PSD and KVCS

Does PSD maintain the facilities, carry insurance

Actual cost

Terms of sale? Sold to whom?

Why are we keeping a charter school?

Would it save PSD operating expenses now?

Benefits of keeping KVCS vs. benefits to selling it?

Estimate value of property and is this a good time to sell?

Post it notes:

1. KVCS insurance cost? Maintenance cost?
2. What are the benefits to keeping KV school?
3. Why is KV's enrollment increasing? How can they afford to buy the facility?
4. Don't the KV kids generate state income in excess of the city kids? What happens to that money?

Fund Transfers

1. More info: which programs impacted, how much per programs, what impact on students
2. Pool: general support/support by city/ and/or user fee increase
3. Food services
4. Reduce some activities
5. Support activities

Post it notes:

1. Fund transfers not to exceed activities/Group fundraising efforts. Matching only as a max.

Fee Increase

1. Charging fee for non-profit use not fair, (especially PYAC) scouts/PYAC, Religious, Dolphins
2. Flex –charge dependent on user

Majority support

3. Fair to charge & fee –should cover full cost of facility expenses (custodial, grounds, utilities, etc.
4. No fee because taxes already pay for facility (including expenses)
5. Groups using facilities and collect funds (i.e. Tithes, donations) should be charged a higher fee)

Ending Fund Balance

There is a broad support to not go below 4.5% on the ending fund balance.

Spend some of this fund.....it is raining.

More information is needed ex: "slightly higher"

What has the carry over (EFB) been over the past few (5+) years?

“Education” rather than a larger EFB is and should be the priority.

“What is the EFB used for?”

A few respondents expressed mis-trust with the historic levels of EFB.

Post it notes:

1. We are not in the business of saving money- we are in the business of educating children. Quit cutting and use the money we have!
2. Spend the rainy day fund
3. One sup. –Four princ.- No assistant princ.

Drivers Ed

1. How are we saving \$20,000-specifics
2. How much will the fees increase for after school program in D.E.
 - Off subject: Lets look at the possibility of leaving K-2 at CPS and leave 5th graders at PES and offer classes that PHS kids can take at PMS. Most ninth grade classes stay at PMS
3. Will there be a further cost savings to the district if we cut the program and student have to take the class at LBCC?
4. Is there an expense to the district if moved to after school or is it self supporting?
5. Can we offer it as a summer class? Some athletes play 3 sports!