

June 14, 2022 - Wasatch County School District Board of Education Meeting and Budget Hearing (Tuesday, June 14, 2022)

Generated by Brooke Wardle on Friday, June 24, 2022

Members present

Board President, Tom Hansen, Vice President Tyler Bluth
Board Members, Cory Holmes and Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Superintendent Paul Sweat
Business Administrator, Keith Johansen

A. Budget Hearing - Called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion, Information: 3. Budget Review - Keith Johansen, Business Administrator

Every June we meet in a general board meeting where we take public comments and discuss the budget. That budget meeting was posted on May 25 to the school and state website for review and this meeting has been advertised in The Wave several times, so we can move forward with the budget tonight. The budget needs to be adopted or put back out for review.

We had to have this meeting before June 22 per state law. This budget is a tool we use throughout the year to help us guide our decisions. Some items are a given and some we make a conservative estimate. Shown is a five-year overview and you can see what we have spent over the last five years and our current proposed budget. Next year our total revenue will be around 95.7 million dollars. Instructional expenditures for FY2023 will be around 9 million. These expenditures happen directly in the classroom including teacher salaries and benefits, aides, and all other support services that support the classroom.

There are 7 funds that the school board controls.

General fund

Student Activity fund

Tax increment fund- the board does not control(Charter Schools)

Debt Service fund

Capital fund

Food Services fund

Foundation fund

For FY23 our budget amount will be around 135 million. Instructional and support services include anything spent that is tied to the classroom. 73% goes to this fund and about 88% of these funds go to salaries and benefits. We teach approx 9000 students and it takes a lot of support to do this.

There are 41 districts in the state and Wasatch falls at about 16.1% the state average is about 23.7%. We have done many great things and we want to try and keep adding to the fund balance which will help with bond ratings and help get through the summer months.

Board President Tom Hansen-why do districts save money instead of spending.

Business Administrator Keith Johansen-if revenues were cut by the state we would have to fall back on our fund balance. This also contributes to teacher pay. I don't think any district is near ours when it comes to teachers' salaries. The bond rating depends on the size of the tax base. Our rating is AA3. Fund balance is also a factor.

I want to thank you, board members. You have made a dedicated effort for this district to hire the best teachers. It starts with your board members and I just want to say thank you. We are now comparable in salaries to other districts. It makes it easier to attract the best teachers.

Board President Tom Hansen: It's important to know that the state only gives us a certain amount for salaries and benefits and the rest we have to supplement. We decided as a board that we wanted to use our fund balance to pay for amazing teachers with salaries that they deserve. Our first priority is to give money to classrooms and teachers. We want to try and continue on that path.

Business Administrator Keith Johansen: Health insurance premiums went up by about 20.5%. We are one of the few districts that still offer the 80/20 plan for our eligible employees. We will not be amending the general budget at all. We will possibly exceed the revenues and expenditure funds so to satisfy the requirements by state law, these are the funds we would like to propose to amend.

Student Activity fund amended by \$500,000

Debt Service fund amended by \$3,050,000 It's our desire that as we prepare for a new bond we would like to pay off our high school.

The capital fund is amended by \$500,000 which will also go to paying off the high school.

Food service was amended by \$725,000 because of the price of food right now.

Foundation fund amended by \$365,000

Board Member Kimberly Dickerson thanks the community for helping us help our teachers and I say thank you!

Discussion, Information:

**4. Public comments will be accepted. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes. LINK-
<https://bit.ly/WCSDBoEBudgetHearingJune2022>**

Sheila Johnston - A thank you, referencing the Deseret News article about teacher burn-out. Thank you for all you do to support teachers in this district.

Jerry Duke, Heber - What is the certified tax rate? It isn't released yet. When I grew up a lot of people didn't have health insurance. It is contributing to what the health industry charges. I do appreciate the district's commitment to paying for teacher benefits. I want to talk about taxes, some districts pay more for teachers than others. As the tax base goes up the amount paid by local citizens also goes up. We are paying over 60%. They haven't fixed it yet. We should equalize where the taxes are going. As they increase the property taxes, it impacts those that can't afford it. Your budgets are going to change. Please don't take all of the room. You're going to be under your caps. Please remember the taxpayers as you move forward. I commend teachers in the district, my wife was a school teacher.

Heather Murdoch, Heber - My husband is a teacher. Thank you for paying the premium for insurance. That has been a huge help with our large family. Amen about the taxes. Our properties are all going up.

The meeting adjourns to the regularly scheduled meeting.

B. Board of Education Meeting Called to Order

C. Community Comment -

1. Public comments will be accepted for approximately twenty (20) minutes. Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes. LINK- <https://bit.ly/WCSDBoERegularMeetingJune2022>

Allan Gayle - I want to thank you for your efforts to focus on elementary school music. We are not confident in the plan moving forward. I hope you prove me wrong. This district has a history of dissolving music classes when teachers leave. I know we have a teacher leaving in the next couple of years. I hope that doesn't happen again. We requested a registration form for students to take music. That was not done. We had a large disappointment at RMMS. We didn't get that done and would like the board to reconsider that. No teacher and no plan will be successful if you can't figure out the registration. Being on the board is a thankless job. Thank you to the board. Tuesday nights at WHS from 5-10 students are practicing music. In September there will be a marching band

Board Member, Kimberly Dickerson -

We have had a lot of emails this week. We have discussed that we are going to reevaluate the changes and higher another music instructor. Teachers will remain in their original positions.

Board Member, Cory Holmes - Our intentions were never to cut the music programs. I understand what music does for kids. I saw kids in a social setting a few years ago. I asked a young man about his tuxedo and the band concert. Being a part of a program means a lot. It is important that they belong to a program. As a board, we support the music program. We will do what we can. Thank you for your passion.

Board Member, Marianne Allen - Thank you for reaching out and thank you for knowing that we are listening. We support you. We hope that helps. We want to build this program. We thought that we were taking the correct steps. Thank you for helping us see differently.

Terrin - I came from a very toxic district. I love Wasatch. Thank you!

Kimberly Ryska - I am involved in the music program. We were up in arms, we saw our teachers spread thinner. The change meant double the work for my husband. We have decided that we are here. We appreciate you. The band director in the state. Thank you for thinking about making changes. We appreciate that you validate our teachers. We are back at it. Our numbers are what they are. We have a lot of parents who want to see it grow. If you have questions or need a volunteer I will help.

Superintendent, Paul Sweat- We want to make it clear that this district values every program. We understand very well the strength of a music program in hand with our academics. We were never cutting music. We were trying to come up with options to build the numbers to grow in middle school to move into High School. It was never the intention of the board or administration to do anything to disparage the music program. We used a consultant to help with a plan to help with more excitement around the program. If you bolster the younger students to build a program we see more success. We want to have the best music program in the state. We are committed to working hard to do that. The board is concerned and is willing to step back and study the program to continue to make improvements to our music program at Wasatch. I cannot think of a time when we have not replaced a music teacher.

Board President, Tom Hansen - My daughter is in the band as a 4th grader, she has enjoyed it so much. She has met new friends and learned a new instrument. I see her in the following band throughout school into middle school and high school.

Superintendent, Paul Sweat - We are invested in this program.

Drew Camps, Heber - I wanted to share my gratitude for both the budget and others. I have stayed in education, it is my dream job. I am living it at Wasatch. As I started my salary has grown by 20,000! I will make \$200 more than my veteran mom teacher, this year as a 5th-year teacher. Wasatch is special. I worked for the state superintendent I told her I was applying for Wasatch School District, and she said,

you have to get this job! Organizations thrive by history, identity, and beliefs. You know when you walk in that people want to be there.

Heather Murdoch - I am happy to hear that Wasatch wants to be the best at music. There is so much talent exploding in this district! I think some concern came from seeing that programs are robust and classes were full. Splitting time during covid was difficult. Wasatch High School has put on the best plays and concerts. I know that money that is poured into fine arts will not be wasted. I have heard that councilors haven't making music programs a priority.

Rebecca Quinn - Former Orchastra Teacher. I am familiar with bouncing between music programs. Going forward as you make decisions you consider changes. Double the work and planning with music is hard and being at two different schools is difficult. You aren't fully part of a school. Burnout is more likely if teachers are teaching at two schools is difficult. How will they be supported if they are at two schools.

Melissa Burr, Heber - I came tonight because of the music program. Mr. Bala said he didn't teach Orchestra, I don' know the best place to know more about the new high school or the bond.

Tara Jarvie, Assistant - We appreciate music at WHS. I appreciate parents and teacher feedback. I came from a district with a fund balance that is very high. Teachers are very discouraged by that. Thank you for making it easy to high excellent teachers. It was the highest pool of teachers I have ever seen! Thank you for your support.

David McNaughtan, Daniel - Principal at DCE. My WPN parent will hold an arts night next year. We are excited about that! The numbers that need to happen are at the Middle Schools for it to be a success at the HS. Thank you for the increases. It makes my job highering teachers so much better. Wasatch is the place that people want to be because of the salary. Teachers are also staying here. Is there a minimum that we have to have in the fund balance.

There is a maximum, but not a minimum balance.

Jena Horrocks, Heber - thank you to the board. I represent the teachers association. Thank you for funding insurance and benefits.

Rachel Probst, Heber - I need to thank you for how much you are supporting teachers. I recently returned from a PLC conference. I had a chance to talk to teachers in other districts. Most districts are not supporting districts like this.

Ryan Bishop, East Heber - When you end a school year and you say good bye to teachers, principals see a lot of teachers in and around that are feeling high moral and positive. We are so appreciative to the school board. I can't say enough about the the great things that are happening at Wasatch.

D. Consent Items

Action (Consent): 1. Consideration of Consent Items

Resolution: Consideration and Approval of Consent Items E 2. - E11.

Consideration and Approval of Consent Items E 2. - E11.

Action (Consent), Minutes: 2. May 18, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Action (Consent): 3. Employee Separations

Action (Consent): 4. Employee New Hires

Action (Consent): 5. Financials

Action (Consent): 6. Home School Affidavits

Action (Consent): 7. School Choice

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

E. Action Items

Action: 1. Approve Expenditure Budget for 2022-2023- Keith Johansen, Business Administrator

I'd like to make a motion to approve and adopt the general student activity tax increment financing, debt service, capital, food services, and enterprise revenue and expenditure budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, as presented.

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 2. Approve Amendments to the Revenue and Expenditure Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-Keith Johansen, Business Administrator

Board Member Tyler Bluth: I would like to make a motion to open and amend the revenue and expenditure budget for FY 2022 to receive and expend an additional \$500,000 in the student activity fund, an additional \$3,050,000 in the Debt Service Fund, an additional \$500,000 in the Capital fund, an additional \$725,000 in the Food Services fund and an additional \$365,000 in the Foundation Enterprise fund. Authorizing the receipt of additional funds in the amounts mentioned from the State, Federal and local sources to reconcile and expend the amounts to meet the requirements of State school law.

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 3. Health Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria - Aubreigh Parks, Wellness Supervisor & District Nurse

As we move from a pandemic to an endemic we are following the health department guidelines for this based on the current variant. Recommendation to review the Health Inclusion/Exclusion Policy until next board meeting.

Motion to approve for review by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 4. Medication Administration Policy - Aubreigh Parks, Wellness Supervisor & District Nurse

Standing ordered paired with telehealth. Adding additional guidelines into policy. We are adding in a standing order portion to give over-the-counter medications. The parents would have to sign a waiver ahead of time and then have verbal approval from the parent before administering any medications. We want to keep the program safe and consistent. Review Medication Administration Policy for approval in the next school board meeting.

Motion to review till next board meeting by Cory Holmes, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 5. Group Insurance Policy Revisions -Shawn Kelly, Human Resources/Operations

We added one word to this policy, "enrollment", and deleted a paragraph that we are no longer practicing.

Paragraph deleted-

"Employees who reach age 65 and continue their employment with the district may convert to medical coverage under Medicare or continue with the group insurance policy for which they are eligible with the district. The Board of Education will provide the cost of the supplemental premium under Medicare from age 65 until retirement. Employees must enroll in the Medicare program during the first available enrollment period, preferably three months prior to turning age 65.

Policy out for review until next meeting."

Motion to approve by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 6. Substitute Teacher Policy Revision - Shawn Kelly, Human Resources/Operations

We now contract through Kelly Services, we are recommending a new and updated policy to include these new practices. Policy out for review until next meeting.

Motion to review till next board meeting by Cory Holmes, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 7. Negotiations and Salary Guidelines - Shawn Kelly, Human Resources/Operations

Changed the name of the classified association to Education Support Professionals and we revised/deleted some of the guidelines that we no longer practice. Notification for contract change has to be done by Sept 10 not Nov 1st which has been a practice for the last 20 years so as you can see these policies needed an update.

Policy out for review until the next meeting.

Motion to review till next board meeting by Tyler Bluth, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 8. Employee Bereavement Policy Revision - Shawn Kelly, Human Resources/Operations

It is the policy of the Board to allow released time with pay to all employees for bereavement in the case of the death of a member of the immediate family. Bereavement days will be deducted from the employee's sick leave days.

With the new state statute and language we had to add to our policy. An employee can get bereavement for a stillborn or miscarriage. Put out for review until the next board meeting.

Motion to review until next board meeting by Cory Holmes, second by Kimberly Dickerson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 9. Approval of Licensed Educators Negotiations Agreement (2022-23)- Director Shawn Kelly

I wanted to thank you for our raises. I get asked often how we are able to pay that much while including the benefits packages. What the board was able to offer this year is amazing and our teachers are so appreciative. Keith also does a great job and we want to thank him. Ratified the contract negotiations and we are asking for approval.

Board members are appreciative of the work of the directors also and we love that we can give direction and the directors roll with the advice and make it amazing for our teachers.

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 10. Approval of Education Support Professional Employees Negotiation Agreement (2022-23) - Shawn Kelly, Human Resources/Operations

The support staff are very happy and feel very supported by our school board.

Wasatch School District will begin offering digital contracts for the next school year. This will be a more efficient way to support our employees.

Motion to approve by Tyler Bluth, second by Marianne B Allen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 11. Approval of Administration Negotiations Agreement (2022-2023) - Shawn Kelly, Human Resources/Operations

Wasatch believes that strong leaders, make strong teachers, which make strong schools. Teacher and administration feel very supported by WCSD and the School Board.

Motion to approve by Kimberly Dickerson, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 12. Approval of Superintendent and Business Administration Negotiations Agreement (2022-23)

Item is tabled.

Action: 13. Consideration for adoption a of a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of not more than \$14,000,000 aggregate principal amount of General Obligation Refunding Bonds; and related matters- Keith Johansen, Business Administrator

Randy Larsen from Gilmore and Bell will talk about the next two items. Take existing bonds and shorten them so we can pay them off quicker. This doesn't bind the district and we will continue to monitor the market and ability to lock in interest rates. Approval of this resolution will set parameters around the bond not to exceed 14 million, interest rates, and maturities. It will authorize a publication in the newspaper with an official statement and article that states the potential of the district issuing those bonds. The bonds delegate to the Superintendent the Business Administrator and the Board the ability to lock in interest rates.

Motion to approve by Marianne B Allen, second by Tyler Bluth.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

Action: 14. Consideration for adoption of a resolution creating a Local Building Authority(LBA) of Wasatch County School District, Utah-Superintendent Sweat

The creation of Local Building Authority (LBA) is a financing mechanism for lease revenue bonds to be issued. Pledged sales tax and annual lease payments were the common financing tools used in the past. Because school districts don't have sales tax so the only ability for us to issue bonds is general obligation through an election or lease revenue concept. This is the first step in creating this option. The local building authority is a non-profit corporation under state law. You are the trustees as a board under the local building authority, it can take no action of itself, it has no budget or no assets and no funds accept when the board approves it to operate to issue lease revenue bonds. The financed project becomes the collateral for those bonds. Your general obligation bonds are the full faith in credit of the taxpayers in the district. You're obligating to raise taxes to whatever is required to pay debt service on a general obligation bond. A lease revenue bond does not grant that kind of authority. It's an annual lease payment. If you choose to appropriate in your budget process annually then you keep the building

that was financed. If you don't you have the ability to walk away and turn it over to bondholders, with a ding to your credit. This is a very common financing tool.

The articles of incorporation that you're approving tonight will allow us to go record, create the building authority as a non-profit corporation and then be back before you adopt by-laws and approve officers. At that point the LBA can act and be a financing tool should you choose it.

Why do building authority when you have a general obligation authority? A building authority does not give you tax info. There are legislative limits on how high your property taxes can go.

A building authority bond doesn't allow us to increase property tax above the limits you are already subject to whereas a general obligation bond would.

The bond would be paid for by existing streams of capital revenue. I am aware of 10 school districts in the state that have gone this route.

Board Member, Marianne B. Allen, " I want people to understand that this board has executive and legislative responsibilities and duties and sometimes people just think we do whatever we want. There is always referendum recourse. If we are off base and out of touch then there is an option. Can you please explain this?"

Randy Larsen - There is a public hearing component going in to a building authority bond and there is a referendum process that is available to the public.

Motion to approve by Marianne B Allen, second by Cory Holmes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Cory Holmes, Tom Hansen, Tyler Bluth, Marianne B Allen, Kimberly Dickerson

F. Board Report

None

G. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Sweat-special guest Luke Searle-Wasatch County Council member- youngest member elected, we are looking forward to working with you.

Luke Searle-My life would be very different if I didn't go to Wasatch High. The investment in our children is life-changing. I am excited to see what else the board is doing and what is in store for the future of our community. The board is wise and is making great decisions on behalf of our community.

I'm excited that my child gets to experience being educated in this district.

Board members-We support Luke and are excited to work with you!

H. Adjournment

1. Adjourn Meeting

I. Executive Session