

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

Generated by Brooke Wardle

Members present

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

Business Administrator, Keith Johansen
Superintendent, Paul Sweat

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.

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 move to the regularly scheduled board meeting.