DRAFT

Pullman School District

Minutes

Finance Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday April 17, 2025 at 3:30 PM

Location
Superintendent Maxwell's Office
District Office
240 SE Dexter St., Pullman, WA 99163

Committee Members Present
Arron Carter, Bob Maxwell, Cameron Grow, Craig Nelson, Dagny Myers, Debbie Crabtree, Diane Hodge, Juston Pollestad, Pam Brantner, Roberta Kramer

Committee Members Absent
None

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Bob Maxwell called a meeting of the Finance Committee Committee of Pullman School District to order on Thursday Apr 17, 2025 at 3:30 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

II. Finance Committee

A. Item 1: 2024-25 Buget

The committee discussed the upcoming levy payment expected in April, which will temporarily increase the district's fund balance. However, the balance is projected to slowly decline again over time. A 23% increase in assessed property valuation resulted in the district losing approximately $286,000 in Local Effort Assistance (LEA), as the state now considers the district more property-rich. The projected ending fund balance in August stands at 7.48%. Schools were commended for their careful spending, which is playing a key role in helping the district stay financially stable this year. Water conservation efforts will continue throughout the summer, and gym resurfacing will now occur every other year to reduce costs. The food service budget is over budget, and the committee plans to review potential cost-saving measures. Suggestions were made to explore community grants for building purchases and consider a districtwide supply system for paper in order to benefit from discounted bulk pricing. The committee also expressed concern that potential budget reductions at Washington State University could negatively impact future student enrollment.

B. Item 2: Listening Session Feedback

Feedback from the recent listening session showed an overall support rating of 4.05 out of 5 for the district. Bob shared that enrichment programs were viewed as the least important by those who responded. Arron requested that future survey data be separated to show responses from staff and community members individually for clearer analysis.

C. Item 3: Legislative Update

The committee reviewed recent legislative changes, including an increase in the Special Education funding multiplier from 1.12 to 1.16. Additionally, the cap on Special Education funding may be lifted if current legislation passes. A small increase in materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC) was also discussed, though it falls short of meeting actual district needs.

D. Item 4: Restructuring

Ongoing work continues on secondary building schedules in an effort to assess and align staffing needs. Reductions in staffing are being addressed through attrition and transfers rather than layoffs.

E. Item 5: Committee Recommendations to the Board

The committee discussed salary placement considerations for a classified position with responsibilities that support critical business operations. The focus was on ensuring the compensation is aligned with the role's level of responsibility and contribution to compliance and accountability functions.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Hodge

Next meeting: May 22, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.