

CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
April 6, 2009
MEETING NOTES

General Meeting

Budget

Laura Barnes-Johnson, CPC Chair, welcomed everyone back from Spring Break and shared her enthusiasm for a few days of sunny weather. She then introduced Dr. Nick Brossoit, Superintendent, who gave an overview of the current budget situation, both at the state and local levels. Detailed budget information is available on the Edmonds School District #15 website, www.edmonds.wednet.edu, click on "2009-10 Budget Planning Information", on the right-hand side of the home page.

Earlier in the day Dr. Brossoit had sent an email to all Edmonds School District staff and all CPC members. That message follows:

From: Brossoit, Nick
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 1:57 PM
To: @All Edmonds Email
Subject: Governor, Senate, and House - Potential Budget Impacts to Edmonds School District.

April 6, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

I would much prefer to be able to send you an e-mail about this nice spring weather - and it is so welcome after the winter. Also, I would like to just share with you how appreciative we are of everyone's caring and professional service in these challenging times in our society - and we are. Still, I have to share this difficult fiscal information with you and with our larger community so people can understand the legislative process leading to the actual funding levels we will have to work with, and so that you are prepared for even deeper reductions as we prepare for next year.

Thus, the purpose of this e-mail is to provide an update on important state level fiscal information and its potential impact to our school district: 1) For those who may value a quick reminder of the overall state's issue, I will include basic background as to why and how this is impacting our state. 2) Mostly, though I want to share with you the possible impact to our district of the three different budgets that are now being discussed at the legislative level. 3) Lastly, we will have to identify more possible budget reductions for the 2009-2010 school year in light of this worsening state funding situation, and I will share how that will be processed.

This next year will be tough for everyone, still, we will just have to do our best locally to make it work. Thank you for your caring and professionalism in this most unusual situation for everyone.

1. Basic Background:

There was likely nothing you or anyone you know did to cause the problems of the economy. It is tied to irresponsible fiscal practices of large corporations and some individuals; these are significant issues that the new federal administration is trying to address. As that gets

addressed, it will have a positive impact on consumer confidence, employment, and the struggling economy; still, it will take months to recover and nobody can predict how fast or how well it will turn around for states. Having said that, we still have to deal with the consequences of the problem. The slow down of consumer spending is reducing the amount of sales tax revenue going into our state operational fund, and that is impacting the forecasts for how much money the state will have available in the next two years. In November 2008 our state was predicting a \$3.3 billion shortfall. By December 2008 (when the Governor built her budget) it had worsened to just under a \$6 billion shortfall, and just recently when the Senate and House developed their state budgets it is now projected to be about a \$9 billion shortfall. Even with the federal stimulus funds coming to states and districts, the amount of the reductions being targeted to K-12 public schools and all areas of state funding are very significant.

2. The Three State Budgets that are out now, and how they would impact our district:

Last week the Senate and House released their budgets. We have analyzed these to determine the potential \$ impact to our school district for next year's funding. Here is how the three budgets compare:

Governor's December 2008 budget -- After the savings of closing two schools, we would still need to reduce about **\$4.8 million** out of our general fund expenditures for next year.

Senate's March 30, 2009 budget -- After the savings of closing two schools, we would still need to reduce about **\$13.1 million** out of our general fund expenditures for next year.

House March 31, 2009 budget - After the savings of closing two schools, we would still need to reduce about **\$8.6 million** out of our general fund expenditures for next year.

3. Next steps based on the Senate and House budgets:

In addition to everyone communicating with their legislative contacts about the importance of school funding and seeking to minimize the actual state funding reductions that get passed on to public schools, we must prepare our district to make reductions well beyond the amount of the Governor's proposal. Starting this Friday, I will be having a special meeting to review ideas that have come in from many of you as well as our Budget Advisory Committee as to how we might further reduce in preparation for the worsening state funding situation. These ideas will be researched and shared out with updates and/or additional meetings, and they will ultimately go into our four May public budget information and input meetings. These are posted on our web site. In addition to study sessions with the Board, the ideas on the expanded list will also require that we process them to even have the option if deemed necessary later for implementation. We are hopeful that the actual final legislative budget and related reductions will not be as severe as the Senate's proposal, however, not having any assurance until the Legislature is finished - we have to be prepared. No final decisions have been made; we still have to see the actual budget approved by the Legislature, and all of this is subject to final Board approval in August, 2009.

If you have questions beyond what will flow out of the process, feel free to let me know. This is a work in process and so much depends on the extent to which the final legislative budget impacts public school districts. Thank you again for your understanding in this most unique and challenging fiscal time in our world.

Sincerely,
Nick

Nick's overview followed the information contained in this email. This is the most profound reduction to public school funding in over 30 years. Nick's expectation is that the final budget will fall somewhere between the House and Senate budget estimates, probably in the range of \$8 million to \$10 million in budget reductions. The district already collects the maximum amount of local levy dollars allowed by law. Nick urged everyone to contact their local legislators and share your views on the impacts of these proposed budget reductions.

There will be a special meeting of all Superintendent Staff this Friday to look at budget reduction ideas and suggestions that have come in recently, in addition to what has already been identified. Additionally, the Budget Advisory Committee continues to work on 2009-2010 budget considerations.

Four community meetings have been scheduled to share information and gather feedback on the 2009-2010 budget. These meetings will be held after the April 26 deadline for the senate and house to send a state budget to the governor for approval, so we should be looking at actual local numbers by that time. The meeting schedule is:

May 6 – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Lynnwood High School, library

May 14 – 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Meadowdale High School, library

May 20 – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Edmonds-Woodway High School, library

May 27 – 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Mountlake Terrace High School, library

You are also welcome to provide feedback by emailing your comments and suggestions to Marla Miller, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, at millerm@edmonds.wednet.edu.

Discussion then followed on several different budget scenarios and how people would like to see resources used given those parameters.

Citizens for Schools

Tracy Greene, Coordinator of Citizens for Schools, reminded everyone that our Maintenance and Operations levy is up for renewal in February, 2010. She stressed the significance of continuing this funding source for the district. She also asked everyone to consider serving on the Citizens for Schools board. Current positions available for the upcoming election include Coordinator, Vice President, Secretary and one Director position. All positions are volunteer.

Nominating Committee

Laura Barnes-Johnson asked everyone to break into groups by quad and select one person per quad to serve on this year's nominating committee. The committee is as follows:

NE Quad – Shawn Miklautsch

NW Quad – Tami Cashdollar

SE Quad – Tim Coffey

SW Quad – Mike Hollenbeck

The committee will be responsible for presenting a slate of officers (Chair and Vice Chair) for 2009-2010, to be elected at our next meeting.

Announcements

The next CPC meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the ESC.