



**Corvallis**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** of a meeting of the Corvallis School District Board of Directors.

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Agenda</b>
Thursday, May 25, 2023 6:30 PM	Special	Gymnasium at Lincoln Elementary School, 110 SE Alexander Avenue, Corvallis, OR 97333	See attached.

If you would like to watch live-streaming of the School Board meeting, please navigate to the District's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Jtpte5dmilZI9kySBJbVQ?>  
A recording of the meeting will also be posted to that channel.

**POSTED:** Corvallis School District Administration Building  
Hans Boyle, Education Editor, Gazette Times (Via Email)

**For more information, please contact Kim Nelson at 541-757-5841 or at [kimberly.nelson@corvallis.k12.or.us](mailto:kimberly.nelson@corvallis.k12.or.us)**



# Corvallis

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thursday, May 25, 2023  
6:30 PM

### AGENDA

Budget Committee Meeting of the  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Corvallis School District 509J

Meeting Details: Thursday, May 25, 2023, 6:30 PM in the Gymnasium at Lincoln Elementary School, 110 SE Alexander Avenue, Corvallis, OR 97333.

*If you would like to watch live-streaming of the School Board meeting, please navigate to the District's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Jtpte5dmilZI9kySBjbVQ?> A recording of the meeting will also be posted to that channel.*

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

*NOTE: To indicate your desire to comment, please arrive several minutes before the meeting begins, and complete a request card; then, turn it in to the Secretary before the meeting begins. See attached guidelines for providing input to the School Board.*

*Virtual option: Please contact [jennifer.schroeder@corvallis.k12.or.us](mailto:jennifer.schroeder@corvallis.k12.or.us) by noon on the day of the Budget Committee Meeting to schedule public comment. Please include your name, address, the phone number you will call in from, and the topic of your public comment.*

III. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 2023-24 BUDGET, TAX RATE, AND TAX AMOUNT

V. ADOPT MINUTES

V.A. MAY 26, 2022

**MINUTES**  
Meeting of the  
**BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
Corvallis School District 509J

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:28:11)**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Andrew Freborg on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 6:31 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, 1555 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333, and live streamed on the district's [YouTube](#) channel (CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:28:11). The secretary recorded those present as listed below.

<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT</u>
Sami Al-Abdrabbuh	none
Vincent Adams	
Tina Baker	
Katherine Bremser	
Joshua Clark (virtual)	
Bill Dougherty	
Andrew Freborg	
Margit Foss (virtual)	
Terese Jones	
Sarah Finger McDonald	
Sravya Tadepalli	
Shauna Tominey	
Luhui Whitebear	
	<u>DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT</u>
	Ryan Noss, Superintendent
	Olivia Meyers Buch, Finance & Operations Director

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

**II. FOLLOW UP FROM LAST MEETING (CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:03:17)**

Chair Freborg opened the meeting by asking for follow up from the last meeting. Finance and Operations Director/ Budget Officer Olivia Meyers Buch provided the following information:

**(CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:03:28) Franklin K-8 School Funding**

Director Meyers Buch shared that she followed up with Troy Brandt regarding his testimony to the Committee on May 19, 2022. She shared with the Committee information regarding the impact of Franklin K-8 School utilizing the same class size target as other schools in the district. She explained that for grades K-5, the 2022-23 projected enrollment for Franklin K-8 is 161 students. This figure is what all staffing and dollar allocations are based upon. In addition to those basic school budget allocations, there are additional departmental funds to support a

variety of student support services that are not necessarily allocated on a formulaic basis that correlates to enrollment. Depending on individual student need, those departmental resources can vary from year to year. She specified that her comments would therefore focus on the basic school budget allocations which are based on projected enrollment.

If Franklin K-8 were to cap enrollment in grades K-5 at 23 (the budgeted target class size), overall projected enrollment for those grades would be 138 instead of 161. This does not have any impact to the allocation of teaching staff – we would still allocate 6 classroom teachers. As staffing is the primary expense, this would impact the resulting student funding ratio, increasing the per student spending by about 7% over what is shown in the budget document.

The reduction of discretionary funds related to a decrease in students at Franklin K-8 would be approximately \$5,000.

In summation, she shared that individual school communities ultimately decide how best to utilize the discretionary funds at each building. She encouraged communication between parents and school administrators.

(CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:09:15) **Budget Alignment with School Board Goals**

Director Meyers Buch referred to a document provided to the Committee and filed as supplemental to these minutes entitled “Budget Alignment with School Board Goals.”

This documents provided additional information regarding the status, scope, and funding sources of various district actions.

Committee Member Finger McDonald asked if the district would continue to have the capacity to further programs currently funded with grant funds. Director Meyers Buch noted that she has no idea what 2023-24 will look like. That will be the beginning of a new biennium at the state level. She shared that we will still have some ESSER funds that will be available, but not nearly the amount planned for this year. She anticipates that there will be more intensive monitoring this year to assist in the prioritization of future funding.

Committee Member Whitebear expressed appreciation for this document.

Director Meyers Buch further commented that for her, and her school finance colleagues state and nationwide, using one time funding resources for ongoing expenditures is a very uncomfortable thing to do. These federal funds are allowing us to do things that will be very difficult to move away from in the future.

(CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:16:08) **Discretionary Allocation Clarification**

Committee Member Tominey asked for clarification regarding discretionary allocations. As they’re based solely on projected student enrollment, are there any adjustments made to accommodate changes?

Director Meyers Buch noted that in her experience with the district there has not been a large surge in enrollment in any particular school that would warrant an adjustment. We do, however, have reserve FTE available to address staffing considerations. If we were to see something of concern, though, we would consider pathways forward.

(CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:17:55) **Equity Coaches and Secondary Educational Assistants**  
Committee Member Tominey noted that she had received correspondence related to equity coaches and a need for additional educational assistants at the secondary level. She wondered if these were needs that could be met with school discretionary funding and where those conversations would be taking place.

Director Meyers Buch noted that discretionary funding is truly discretionary – school administrators are free to utilize those funds for whatever needs they prioritize at the individual school level. The decision making process for the two positions you specified is collaborative between school leadership and our Teaching and Learning Department.

Superintendent Noss added that departments also receive discretionary funding, so school needs can often be addressed through a variety of funding sources.

Committee Member Al-Abdrabbuh expressed his appreciation for the efforts to document the ways in which we are utilizing our funds.

### **III. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR MORE INFORMATION (CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:21:35)**

Chair Freborg asked the Committee for any further questions or comments. Hearing none, he invited motions to approve the budget.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF 2022-23 BUDGET, TAX RATE, AND TAX AMOUNT (CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:21:39)**

**MOTION: Committee Member Al-Abdrabbuh moved that the Corvallis School District budget for 2022-23, in the aggregate amount of \$243,641,448 for all funds, be approved. This motion was seconded by Committee Member Tominey.**

There was no discussion. Chair Freborg asked for vote by roll.

**VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.**

**MOTION: Committee Member Finger McDonald moved that the permanent tax rate of \$4.4614 per \$1,000 of assessed value be levied for operating purposes, that a local option tax rate of \$1.5000 per \$1,000 of assessed value be levied in support of the General Fund, and that a tax amount of \$15,168,503 be levied for the service of bonded debt obligations. This motion was seconded by Committee Member Jones.**

There was no discussion. Chair Freborg asked for vote by roll.

**VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.**

**V. ADOPT MINUTES – MAY 19, 2022 (CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:24:46)**

Chair Freborg invited motions to approve the minutes.

**MOTION: Committee Member Whitebear moved that minutes from the May 19, 2022 meeting of the Budget Committee be amended to correct her title from Ms. to Dr. Committee Member Al-Abdrabbuh also requested a correction to the spelling of his name. There was consensus to adjust titles for all members.**

Chair Freborg noted that there were no objections to the amendments and the motion carried.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT (CSD 509J, 05-26-2022, 00:26:40)**

Chair Freborg thanked all members of the Committee, in particular Margit Foss, Katherine Bremser and Sravya Tadepalli. He also expressed appreciation for the efforts of district staff in preparing the budget.

**MOTION: Committee Member Adams moved that the meeting be adjourned. Committee Member Finger McDonald seconded the motion.**

Hearing no objections and noting consensus, Chair Freborg adjourned the meeting at Meeting adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.

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Andrew Freborg, Committee Chair

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Olivia Meyers Buch, Budget Officer

*Prepared By: Jennifer Schroeder, S:\DO\Business\Budget\Budget 2022-23\Budget Committee\Mtg 3 APPROVE\2022-MAY 26 MEETING 2 Minutes Unadopted.docx*



# Corvallis

SCHOOL DISTRICT

V.B.     APRIL 27, 2023

**MINUTES**  
Meeting of the  
**BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
Corvallis School District 509J

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:06:51)**

The meeting was called to order by School Board Chair Sarah Finger McDonald on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lincoln Elementary School gymnasium, 110 SE Alexander Street, Corvallis, OR 97333, and live streamed on the district's [YouTube](#) channel (CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 01:20:11). The secretary recorded those present as listed below.

<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT</u>
Sami Al-Abdrabbuh	Tina Baker
Vincent Adams	Joshua Clark
Bill Dougherty (out at 7:00 pm)	Andrew Freborg
Sarah Finger McDonald	
Courtney Holgate	<u>DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT</u>
Terese Jones	Ryan Noss, Superintendent
Niki Mendoza	Olivia Meyers Buch, Finance & Operations Director
Aaron Rivers	Melissa Harder, Assistant Superintendent
Shauna Tominey	
Luhui Whitebear	
Penny York (virtual)	

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS (CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:07:02)**

Superintendent Noss asked each committee member to introduce themselves.

**III. REVIEW AGENDA AND MEETING NORMS (CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:11:15)**

Superintendent Noss turned the meeting over to Finance and Operations Director Olivia Meyers Buch who introduced the meeting norms. Her presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

**IV. BUDGET COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:14:38)**

Director Meyers Buch continued her presentation highlighting the roles and responsibilities of the Budget Committee. Additional presentation slides are supplemental to these minutes.

**V. BUDGET DOCUMENT ORIENTATION (CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:16:00)**

An orientation to the budget document's format was presented by Director Meyers Buch.



**VI. FINANCIAL UPDATE AND OUTLOOK FOR 2023-24** (CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:22:01)

Ms. Meyers Buch presented information regarding general economic projections and our current year budget update. Her presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:33:18) Committee member Al-Abdrabbuh asked Director Meyers Buch to explain more about the expected increase in State School Funding allocations per ADMw (average daily membership weighted) versus inflation rates – what level of increase in funding at the State level would better correlate to the anticipated increases in costs?

Director Meyers Buch noted that over the last five years or so, our revenues have increased by about 30% while our expenses have increased by about 45%. While our spending was more than our revenue, that was really more about our declining enrollment rather than State funding. We've been trying to hold ourselves harmless from our declining enrollment and continue staffing at the same level. The two negative factors of declining enrollment and a smaller increase in state school funds are compounding.

Everything is costing more and the State School Fund is not keeping up.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:38:37) Committee member Whitebear asked if there was any conversation at the State level regarding changing the State School Fund allocation formula.

Director Meyers Buch replied that there have been conversations over the past ten years, but there doesn't seem to be much interest in altering the formula at this time. She acknowledged that while the State School Fund is the main source of income, there are additional allocations for specific purposes – intended to enhance educational opportunities statewide, not replace the base allocation.

Director Meyers Buch added that an additional factor is the district has taken a bit of a risk in the utilization of one time federal relief funding, scheduled to be spent out by the end of 2023-24, which will increase the discomfort of realignment for upcoming budget cycles.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:43:40) Committee member Adams asked if the planned allocation from the State this year would be 49/51. Director Meyers Buch stated that, yes, her understanding was that biennial funding would be distributed at a rate of 49% in the first year and 51% in the second year.

**(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:44:25) Assumptions Regarding Revenues and Expenditures**

Director Meyers Buch continued her presentation with an overview of assumptions the district is making this year in regards to revenues and expenditures.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:49:08) Committee member Adams asked how many ESSER dollars were in the budget across all categories. Director Meyers Buch noted that we think we will have about \$2.4 million.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:52:38) Committee member Whitebear commented that it was very important to note that declining enrollment isn't something the district can do much about – we cannot recruit students to the district with the intent of increasing revenues. Superintendent Noss also noted the impact of the lack of affordable housing in our area.

Superintendent Noss also recognized that we will be adopting a budget this year before the State finishes their budget work. It can make budget committee members uncomfortable as it feels a little out of order, however, this is a normal process.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:55:07) Committee member Holgate asked if there was concern about families exiting the district for alternative educational experiences and what we could do to combat that response. Superintendent Noss shared that we watch enrollment trends and, locally, the number of home school families has returned to the level that we saw pre-pandemic. There are some conversations about this at the State level.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:56:15) Director Meyers Buch concluded her presentation with a reminder of the School Board's adopted Budget Parameters.

**VII. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR MORE INFORMATION (CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:59:17)**

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 00:59:17) Committee Member Mendoza noted recent media interest in school budgeting and asked if we were anticipating increased public participation in the budget process this year. Director Meyers Buch noted that we spend about 80% of our budget on staffing, so there is no way that we could balance the budget without impacting staffing in some way. Additionally, we have added a lot of staff over the past couple of years funded with ESSER revenues and that will require reconciliation. When we talk about equitable access and opportunities, we focus on the student experience. We are having to make staffing reductions based on reductions in student enrollment.

Superintendent Noss noted that we are still recovering from a global pandemic. We still have work to do to support students in academic and social-emotional recovery.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 01:05:20) Committee member Tominey noted that as she was reviewing the parameters, she was reminded of previous discussions regarding community voice and input on the budget. Are we including teacher and community voice in our data sets for determining budget priorities? Director Meyers Buch noted recent conversations about middle school needs is a good example of staff and parent feedback that is incorporated into our budget work.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 01:07:08) Committee member Adams noted that the district has been working ways to address student behavior for quite some time. The Board's goal is that all students succeed and we cannot pick our students – we serve all students, so we need to support them with all of their needs. He is grateful for the decisions to increase mental health

and social-emotional student supports before the pandemic as he believes those programs were essential in assisting students through these past few years.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 01:08:30) Committee member Al-Abdrabbuh his gratitude to for the work in developing the budget. He expressed that he feels anxious about this year's budget, but is confident in the strategic investments previously aligned with School Board goals. He encouraged advocacy at the State level.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 01:12:30) Committee member Whitebear expressed agreement with these sentiments.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 01:13:30) Committee member Mendoza also expressed appreciation to the staff for their work. Director Meyers Buch shared that the work done in the past few months has been the most difficult of her career. Not the technical work, but achieving a balanced budget has required a lot of mental work leveraging all of our available resources to keep the student experience as fulfilling as possible.

(CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 01:16:00) Board Chair Finger McDonald noted a personal history of advocacy at the State level for K-12 education. She also encouraged everyone to advocate at the State level.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT ) (CSD 509J, 04-27-2023, 01:17:35)**

There being no further business before the Committee, School Board Chair Finger McDonald reminded the group of the first official meeting, scheduled for May 18, 2023 and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Andrew Freborg, Committee Chair

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Olivia Meyers Buch, Budget Officer

*Prepared By: Jennifer Schroeder, S:\DO\Business\Budget\Budget 2023-24\Budget Committee\2023-04-27 Orientation\2023 APR 27 - Orientation Mtg - UNADOPTED minutes.docx*



# Corvallis

SCHOOL DISTRICT

V.C. MAY 18, 2023

**MINUTES**  
Meeting of the  
**BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
Corvallis School District 509J

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 00:13:01)**

The meeting was called to order by School Board Co-Vice Chair Shauna Tominey on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 6:34 p.m. in the Lincoln Elementary School gymnasium, 110 SE Alexander Ave, Corvallis, OR 97333, and live streamed on the district's [YouTube](#) channel (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:53:58). The secretary recorded those present as listed below.

<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT</u>
Sami Al-Abdrabbuh	Tina Baker
Vincent Adams	Joshua Clark
Bill Dougherty	Luhui Whitebear
Sarah Finger McDonald	
Andrew Freborg	
Courtney Holgate	<u>DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT</u>
Terese Jones	Ryan Noss, Superintendent
Niki Mendoza	Olivia Meyers Buch, Finance & Operations Director
Aaron Rivers	Melissa Harder, Assistant Superintendent
Shauna Tominey	
Penny York (arrived 6:41 p.m.)	

A quorum was present and due notice had been published.

**II. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 00:14:13)**

Board Co-Vice Chair Tominey called for nominations for Budget Committee Chair.

**NOMINATION: School Board Chair Sarah Finger McDonald nominated Andrew Freborg to serve as Budget Committee Chair.**

Hearing no further nominations, School Board Co-Vice Chair Tominey closed the nomination period.

**MOTION: Vince Adams motioned that Andrew Freborg be appointed Committee Chair by acclimation. This motion was seconded by Terese Jones.**

**There was no objection; Andrew Freborg was appointed Committee Chair.**

Committee Chair Freborg called for nominations for Budget Committee Vice-Chair.

**NOMINATION: Committee member Adams nominated Courtney Holgate to serve as Budget Committee Vice-Chair.**

Hearing no further nominations, Chair Freborg closed the nomination period.

**MOTION: School Board Chair Finger McDonald motioned that Courtney Holgate be appointed Committee Vice-Chair by acclamation. This motion was seconded by Committee member Adams.**

**There was no objection; Courtney Holgate was appointed Committee Vice-Chair.**

### **III. SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 00:18:05)**

Superintendent Noss presented his budget message. A copy of the message was distributed to Committee members, made available to public attending the meeting, and was posted on the website. It has also been attached as supplemental to these minutes.

### **IV. BUDGET OFFICER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 00:29:00)**

Budget Officer Meyers Buch presented an overview of the 2023-24 Proposed Budget in four sections: all funds summary, general fund, key assumptions, and school allocations. Her presentation slides were provided to the Committee at the meeting and are attached as supplemental to these minutes.

#### **Budget Summary – All Funds (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 00:29:35)**

The Committee voiced no questions regarding this section of the presentation.

#### **General Fund (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 00:37:00)**

A summary of the Committee's questions and comments:

##### **(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 00:47:35) *Use of Reserves***

Committee Member Al-Abdrabbuh asked for clarification regarding the spending of reserves and potential impacts for future years if that decision was to be made. Director Meyers Buch noted that the proposed budget calls for the use of \$800,000 to balance the budget in 2023-24 (approximately equivalent to 8.0 FTE) and \$2.4 million in ESSER funds to support staffing. We know that if nothing else changed, we would have to reduce our budget in 2024-25 by \$3.2 million. While we know that these two factors are significant, she also acknowledges that there are many factors that can change over this next year.

##### **(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 00:50:30) *Decrease in Administration Staffing***

Committee Member Adams noted a perceived decrease to administration staffing and asked for confirmation. Director Meyers Buch acknowledged a decrease of 1.0 FTE in the Administrative category, but also noted that, similar to other employee categories, the current staffing in that category had been increased over the last few years. Committee member Adams noted his concern that this district has historically been lean administratively and that the district office struggles to be responsive to the needs of schools.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 00:53:40) ***Process and Other Options Reviewed***

Committee Member Mendoza asked for information regarding the process for making these decisions – were staff opinions solicited? And, what other reduction options were reviewed and set aside in favor of decreasing staffing by 43 FTE? Superintendent Noss noted that when we received one time federal recovery funding, we decided to utilize those funds in classrooms, with the knowledge that we would need to then return to previous staffing levels. He explained that the district begins budget conversations with school and district leaders early in the fall – regardless of whether we are anticipating increases or decreases. Principals come to district leadership with proposals which are then incorporated into the budget. He also shared that other options districts typically look to include reductions to the number of school days. He added that departments have also reduced budget requests – facilities, technology, for example. Director Meyers Buch discussed the technical side of the decision making process includes looking at projected enrollment and planning staffing levels in a formulaic way.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:02:38) ***Ending Fund Balance***

Committee member Dougherty asked Director Meyers Buch to trace the beginning fund balance from the actual, to the estimated, to the budgeted amount. Director Meyers Buch noted that for this year, the actual beginning fund balance was less than what we had budgeted – something that she hasn't seen in a long time and not a place she feels comfortable. We try to be very conservative when we anticipate the roll over from one year to the next.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:04:12) ***FTE Breakdown by Classification***

Committee member Jones asked for the breakdown by classification of the 43 FTE reductions. Director Meyers Buch explained that 1.0 FTE was Administrative, 1.84 FTE was Licensed, 39.11 FTE classified, and 0.88 FTE other non-represented staff.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:04:57) ***Impact of Additional Revenue***

Committee Member Jones asked what Director Meyers Buch would change in the budget if the State were to allocate more funding. Director Meyers Buch indicated she would look at ways in which we could reduce reliance on one-time funds to support ongoing expenses. She also cautioned that we have made multiple assumptions in the formation of the budget. Until more is known about each of those assumptions, she would be hesitant to spend any unexpected revenue.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:06:03) ***Positions Funded with One-time Dollars***

Committee Member Jones expressed her appreciation for the reminder that we did know when we made additional hires that it was with one time funding and that, even with increased state

funding, the current level of staffing is not sustainable. She asked how many hires were made (in total) with those one time funds. Director Meyers Buch answered that the current year budget includes 33 FTE of one-time ESSER dollars.

Committee Member Jones made a comment regarding the use of the phrase of making the “least amount of impact on kids.” She expressed that, ultimately, all cuts will impact kids. She suggested that we instead focus on the fact that we are prioritizing certain spending areas that will best achieve desired outcomes.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:08:25) ***Alternative Sources of Income***

Committee Vice-Chair Holgate acknowledged the obvious revenue problem. She noted that private schools in the area have recently seen increased enrollment and wondered what the district was doing to curtail the decreased enrollment she attributes to negative publicity. Director Meyers Buch noted that we do advocacy at the state level to increase our per-student funding. She stated that it was her understanding that private school enrollment hasn’t changed that much over the past five years and that the district is supportive of parents making choices in where they enroll their children. She also noted that we have positive collaborative relationships with the local private schools. And, yes, while the individual choices of families to enroll their children outside of the district does have a financial impact, we are also serving fewer students, which requires a realignment of how our resources are utilized. Superintendent Noss also noted that there are rules around marketing for students. We do track and measure home school and virtual charter numbers and it appears that these two categories are back to pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, we see more students coming to the district through the inter-district transfer process.

Committee Vice-Chair Holgate also asked about alternative sources of income, including building rental fees and/or charging for after school programming. Meyers Buch noted that facility use fees are governed by Board Policy KG and that we don’t generally charge facility use fees to organizations that are providing services to district students. She also shared that the district is applying for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant, previously operated by the Boys and Girls Club, to provide after school programs.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:18:20) ***Temporary FTE***

Chair Freborg if the positions hired with one time funds were identified as temporary during the hiring phase. He additionally asked about what might happen in 2024-25 with the additional FTE funded with the remaining ESSER funds. Superintendent Noss noted that in January the district put into place a practice that if a position was vacated during this school year it would not be filled unless approved by him in consultation with the Director of Human Resources, Assistant Superintendent, and Director Myers Buch. Positions that were posted were mostly posted as limited term, allowing us more flexibility to move staff members into different positions. He indicated that there are many unknowns for the 2024-25 budget outlook. That said, we will continue this current process to give us more flexibility with staffing.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:22:15) ***State School Funding Impact***



Committee member Al-Abdrabbuh wondered as to the individual impacts of the noted revenue decreases – less enrollment, state school funding allocation not rising at the same rate as inflation, and use of one-time funds. How much is the state school funding allocation contributing to the loss of 43 FTE. Director Meyers Buch answered that when we look at the General Fund [where state school funding revenue is captured] independently, we are reducing 12 FTE. All other FTE losses are directly related to Special Revenue Funds.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:25:28) **5 minute recess**

Prior to resuming her presentation, Director Meyers Buch provided two updates:

- In regards to Committee Member Dougherty’s question regarding ending fund balances (at CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:02:38), she noted that for this current year we budgeted a beginning fund balance of \$14.3 million; our actual beginning balance was \$13.6 million, a difference of approximately \$675,000.
- In regards to comments she made about private school enrollment data (in response to Committee Vice-Chair Holgate at CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:08:25), Director Meyers Buch clarified that while we do know the total number of students enrolled in private schools, we don’t have necessarily have information as to the residency of those students. She explained that through our federal programs we are required to reach out to private schools in our area to coordinate services and training opportunities.

**Key Assumptions** (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:34:36)

Director Meyers Buch continued her presentation by sharing key assumptions made in the development of the 2023-24 Proposed Budget. Her comments focused on three major assumptions: student enrollment, state school fund allocation, and salary and benefits.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:36:15) **Inclusion/Exclusion of Muddy Creek Charter School enrollment**

Committee Member Mendoza sought better understanding of when enrollment for Muddy Creek Charter School students was included. Director Meyers Buch answered that the district passes through funds to Muddy Creek based on their actual enrollment. For budget purposes, however, she projects the total number of students allowed by their charter agreement with the district (125) which allows us to receive those funds on their behalf.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:43:45) **Staffing Cost Increases**

Committee Chair Freborg wondered if there was a plan in place to address the fact that funding from the state is not going to increase to the levels that would support the level of increased COLA we believe our staff should receive. Director Meyers Buch noted that we are very early in the negotiation process. Should the end result be a greater amount than what has been budgeted for, and should all other things remain the same, we would need to make reductions in other areas. That said, there are many moving pieces and lots of assumptions that can change.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:46:20) **State Level Assumptions**

Committee Member Al-Abdrabbuh wondered if the State has a number that they use for COLA as the current budget allocation (at \$9.9 billion) doesn't appear to reflect what we are experiencing. Director Meyers Buch explained that in conversations with her contemporaries across the state, the consensus was that while the \$9.9 billion allocation was better than what we've seen in the past, a \$10.3 billion allocation would have been more in alignment with our experiences.

**School Allocations (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:50:10)**

Director Meyers Buch finished her presentation with comments regarding school allocations.

**(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:54:58) *Reserves Earn Interest***

Committee Chair Freborg asked if our reserve funds were located in interest-earning accounts. Director Meyers Buch referred to the Board Policy regarding investments. She explained that we primarily invest in the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP), but that we do also work with Piper Sandler, an investment banking company, to develop and maintain a diverse investment portfolio focused on maturities strategically identified to meet our cash flow needs.

**(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 01:57:36) *Process and Engagement***

Committee Member Tominey acknowledged that the plan was to utilize one time funds to pay for staffing to address the increased needs of students in returning back to school post-pandemic. She further acknowledged, however, that what we've now found through public testimony is that the additional staffing has become critical. Have we been asking educators if this is meeting the needs that they are truly seeing right now? How can we better integrate educator voice in the budget process?

Director Meyers Buch noted that the technical development of the budget is driven by board goals and parameters. The School Board reviewed fiscal policy in December, budget parameters in January, and invited community input to plans via engagement sessions held in the fall. All of those actions and activities help to inform the budget process.

Committee Member Mendoza asked if the engagement sessions were at the Principal level with their individual school communities. Superintendent Noss indicated that in at least eight of the community listening sessions, board members engaged the community to discuss the strengths of the community, specific needs, and to review current board goals. He provided examples of the types of program investments we have made in direct correlation to School Board goals.

Director Meyers Buch referred to the Integrated Plan referenced in the document and available on our website. This plan identifies a variety of community input opportunities that occurred.

Committee Member Adams noted that community engagement is something that we have done for quite some time. Committee Vice-Chair Holgate shared that she attended one of those sessions and found it very rewarding and informative.

**(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:08:20) *Program Data Review***

Vice-Chair Holgate asked for information regarding the review of program data. How are outcomes measured and how often are those reviewed and what kinds of realignment takes place? Superintendent Noss acknowledged that we have been wanting for data during the pandemic. That said, we do bring data to the Board for discussion with regularity. Academic outcomes are fairly easy to look at, but experiential and real-world learning goals may be more difficult for us to quantify. Principals review their goals with board members each fall.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:11:03) ***Summer School Investment***

Committee Member Alabdrabbuh used summer school as an example. This past year we were able to invest in a robust summer school program and we were able to realize measured increases and successes for students. Unfortunately, funding from the state related to this program was cut this year.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:13:33)

Committee Member Tominey continued down her list of questions. She pointed out the school profiles in the back of the document. Specifically that every school will be experiencing a reduction in classified staff – from 2 to 6 FTE. She recognized that those FTE truly support teachers in their job. She referred to page 64, specific to substitutes (objects 122 and 123) and the “flip” in expectations between classified and certified cost estimates over prior year actuals. Director Meyers Buch explained that the majority of our substitute expenditures are captured under purchased services (object 390), so what is shown in the other objects captures a small amount of existing staff who may also substitute.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:17:23) ***Increased Budget for Travel***

Committee Member Tominey also asked about the proposed increase for Travel and Consumable Supplies and Materials (objects 340 and 410) as shown in page 64. Is the large jump bringing us back to pre-pandemic levels? Director Meyers Buch explained that she expects to see additional budget for these objects in particular within the special revenue funds as that allows for enough appropriation of resources to support grant activities. Outside of grants, we did ask departments to reduce plans for travel to assist in balancing the budget.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:20:23) ***Questions regarding FTE by Function***

Committee Member Tominey noted the table on page 167 listing the allocated FTE by Function. She highlighted two functions: Restrictive Programs for Students with Disabilities (1220) and Less Restrictive Programs for Students with Disabilities (1250), noting that it appears that 37% of the staffing reductions would be directly impacting students with disabilities. Director Meyers Buch pointed out that 1220 is where the additional staffing connected with one time money to support additional educational time to WINGS students unable to complete transition programming due to the pandemic is attributed. Now that those “make up” years have been completed, staffing will be returning to a pre-pandemic level as the number of students in the program will decrease back to pre-pandemic levels. Reductions in 1250 represent work by our Student Growth and Experience team working more closely with data to identify better case load calculations driven by actual student need.

She further explained that we often hold back budgeted/allocated FTE in these two functions to allow for timely implementation to support specific student needs that may change during the year (a high-needs student moves into the district, for example). Therefore, it is not uncommon for actual FTE to appear less than budgeted.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:23:39)

Committee Member Finger-McDonald suggested that further detailed questions from the committee be tabled until after public testimony. Committee Chair Freborg concurred.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:24:05)**

Chair Freborg asked if the Committee Secretary received any requests to provide public comment. Committee Secretary noted that two individuals wished to address the Committee this evening.

**Jill James, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher at Bessie Coleman Elementary and district parent (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:26:10)**

Jill James shared that she was previously unaware of the engagement sessions highlighted tonight and that she views this opportunity to provide feedback to the committee as her engagement session. She advised the committee to reach out directly to educators for input and ask them to prioritize where cuts should be made. She advocated for instructional aides who provide instruction to individual students and directly impact students. She believes that a Dean of Students will not adequately replace the work of classified staff.

Committee Member Mendoza thanked Ms. James for her comments and acknowledged that she is exactly who she was wanting to hear from this evening. She asked what Ms. James would cut. Ms. James acknowledged that they can't be easy decisions, but that cuts "at the top" should be considered.

**Patricia Von Glahn, Citizen Member and Special Education Advocate (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:32:09)**

Patricia Von Glahn suggested that while an extra person in the classroom is great, we should also be looking at the training those people receive and the curriculum that is utilized. Instead of focusing on cutting, we should perhaps focus on reallocation of individuals based on skills and experience. She encouraged the use of volunteers. She acknowledged the comments of Committee Member Holgate regarding looking for additional revenue options as well as behavior impacting the desire of local parents to enroll their children with the district.

Chair Freborg closed public comment.

#### **VI. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR MORE INFORMATION (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:38:00)**

Chair Freborg re-opened Committee discussion and questions.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:38:30) ***Mental Health Services***

Chair Freborg asked for more information regarding the accessibility of mental health services within the district based on Superintendent Noss' previous comment that we were now the largest provider of pediatric mental health services in the county. Superintendent Noss noted that this was made possible through Student Success Act funding allowing us to hire directly mental health therapists and skills trainers who can provide access to these services within the student's individual school locations.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:40:11) ***Special Education Funding***

Committee Member Alabdrabbuh asked how someone could track the revenues and expenses within the document specific to special education funding. Director Meyers Buch explained that in the budget document revenues are identified by source – federal, local, other – so on that side, it's not distinguishable in the document. On the expenditure side, it's explained best by the function view. She further explained that the district does track more specifically funding related to special education for maintenance of effort purposes, but that information is not shown at the level of the budget document.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:42:11) ***College Hill and Alternative Pathways***

Committee Member Tominey asked for clarification as to where to find line items in the budget specific to College Hill – there isn't a specific school page. Director Meyers Buch noted that the ESSA school reporting pages do not include this information as College Hill is not a separate school. Superintendent Noss added that College Hill has not been designated as a separate school because we want to tie achievement to our two comprehensive high schools.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:45:42) ***Counseling and Social Work Staff***

Committee Member Tominey voiced a concern regarding the ratio of counseling and social work staff to students (per her calculations based on FTE figures shown on page 168), in particular the allocation of counseling/social work to Franklin K-8. Director Meyers Buch noted that this was more of a reflection of the needs of students at that particular school. Assistant Superintendent Harder noted that the mental health team looks at the needs of individual students and as a team decides on the best allocation of their team resources across the district.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:49:10) Chair Freborg invited requests from the committee for more information. He acknowledged a need for the meeting scheduled on May 25, 2023 to continue deliberation.

There were no disclosures made by the committee.

(CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:50:54) Community Member Adams inquired as to the procedural protocol for asking questions between now and the next meeting. Director Meyers Buch asked

that questions be forwarded to the Committee Secretary for review. Staff will then work through those and bring information back at the next meeting.

**VII. ADOPT MINUTES – MAY 27, 2021**

**VIII. ADOPT MINUTES – APRIL 21, 2022**

Chair Freborg shared that minutes were unavailable this evening and related agenda items will be tabled until the May 25, 2023 meeting.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT (CSD 509J, 05-18-2023, 02:53:10)**

Committee Member Adams moved that the Committee be adjourned. Hearing no objection, Chair Freborg adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

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Andrew Freborg, Committee Chair

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Olivia Meyers Buch, Budget Officer

*Prepared By: Jennifer Schroeder, S:\DO\Business\2019-20 Budget Work\Budget Committee\2019-MAY 02 Minutes.docx*



# Corvallis

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

### VI. ADJOURNMENT

\*All times are approximate.

*Note: The Chair of the Board may alter the order of business as they deem proper and necessary.*



# Corvallis

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

Agendas – Agendas and supporting materials are available online at <https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicHome.aspx?ak=1000829> a few days before each School Board meeting. For more information, please contact Kim Nelson at [kimberly.nelson@corvallis.k12.or.us](mailto:kimberly.nelson@corvallis.k12.or.us).

Communication With The School Board – Communication with the Board can be made by telephone, letter, e-mail and public testimony. Letters may be addressed to individual Board members or the Board as a whole and sent to 1555 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis, OR 97333. E-mail may be sent to [schoolboard@corvallis.k12.or.us](mailto:schoolboard@corvallis.k12.or.us) and will be sent to all board members simultaneously as well as to key District Office staff. For more information, please contact Kim Nelson at [kimberly.nelson@corvallis.k12.or.us](mailto:kimberly.nelson@corvallis.k12.or.us).

Consolidated Action Agenda – The purpose of the consolidated action agenda is to expedite action on routine agenda items. All agenda items that are not held for discussion at the request of a Board member or staff member will be approved/accepted as written as part of the consolidated motion. Items designated or held for discussion will be acted upon individually.

Public Comment –

Guidelines are at: <https://www.csd509j.net/about-us/school-board/provide-input-and-be-informed/>

Executive Session – Permissible purposes of Executive Sessions include: ORS 192.660(2)(a) – Employment of Public Officers, Employees and Agents; ORS 192.660(2)(b) – Discipline of Public Officers and Employees; ORS 192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiator Consultations; ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Property Transactions; ORS 192.660(2)(f) – Exempt Public Records; ORS 192.660(2)(h) – Legal Counsel; ORS 192.660(2)(i) – Performance Evaluations of Public Officers and Employees; ORS 192.660(2)(j) – Public Investments.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS			
Judah Largent	541-231-8415	Terese Jones, Co-Vice Chair	541-230-1673
Sami Al-Abdrabbuh	541-283-6611	Shauna Tominey, Co-Vice Chair	541-829-8411
Chris Hawkins	541-602-2045	Luhui Whitebear, Chair	541-714.3305
Sarah Finger McDonald	541-908-3756		

EXECUTIVE STAFF MEMBERS	
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Melissa Harder, Assistant Superintendent	541-766-4857
Lauren Wolfe, Finance Director	541-757-5874
Jennifer Duvall, Human Resources Director	541-757-5840
Kim Patten, Operations Director	541-757-3849
Kim Nelson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Board Secretary	541-757-5841