

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2019
WORK SESSION OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

April 9, 2019

1. Opening Items

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The work session of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 10:02 a.m. at the Washoe County School District's Central Administration Building, 425 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

1.02 ROLL CALL

President Katy Simon Holland and Board Members Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor were present. Superintendent Traci Davis, Deputy Superintendent Kristen McNeill, Chief of Staff David Lasic, and staff were also present.

1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Kristen McNeill, Deputy Superintendent, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

1.05 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Raymond that **the Board of Trustees approves the agenda as presented.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action

2.01 PRESENTATION BY STAFF AND DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 BUDGET FOR ALL DISTRICT FUNDS; UPDATE REGARDING THE STRUCTURAL BUDGET DEFICIT FOR THE GENERAL FUND; UPDATE OF BOARD BUDGET REQUESTS;

DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET TIMELINE; AND DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE BUDGET

Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, began the presentation. By the end of the day, the District was requesting the Board approve the tentative budget, which was due to the state by April 15, and provide direction related to the final budget.

Mike Schroeder, Budget Director, reviewed the proposed tentative budget for the Board. An overview of the process used to build the annual budget was provided and based on early assumptions related to projected enrollment, revenues, and expenses. Information from prior discussions and decisions made by the Board were included as part of the presentation. He noted, as part of the review, the reduction to Advanced Placement (AP) teacher stipends of \$168,000 were not included in the current calculations as an option to reduce the structural deficit since the Trustees had come to a consensus they were not in favor of the idea. The known revenues and expenses were reviewed; however, it was important to remember the discussions in the Nevada Legislature were continuing related to school funding and a possible new funding model to be used in the future. Based on the known information and assumptions, the projected structural deficit for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year (FY) would be \$9.44 million.

Mr. Mathers summarized the revenues versus expenses for the current fiscal year and projections for the next fiscal year. Due to the continued structural deficit, the available fund balance for the District continued to decrease and was projected to be \$25.56 million for FY20, which represented 5.3% of current expenditure assumptions if no changes were made by the Board.

Trustee Taylor wondered at what point did the state intervene and send government entities letters regarding fiscal watch status by the state. Mr. Mathers stated if the actual ending fund balance dipped below 4%, an entity could be put on fiscal watch by the state.

President Simon Holland noted there were no actual consequences from the state for an entity being placed on the fiscal watch list; however, the letter could impact the District's bond rating so it would cost more to borrow money, which the District was interested in continuing to do related to the construction of new schools.

Mr. Schroeder continued with the presentation. Background information on the Charter School Adjustment related to the Nevada Plan was provided. While no major changes had been made to the Nevada Plan since it was first adopted, adjustments were always being made to ensure greater equity. Changes were based on recommendations from a working group that met during the biennium. One of the recommended changes from the 2018 group was to review how charter school students were included in the calculations.

President Simon Holland requested clarification on the adjustment that the District would lose the per pupil amount for a student who lived in the District but attended a charter school. Mr. Schroeder indicated that was correct. Charter schools received the same per pupil amount as the school district in the county they were housed in as well as any local revenues associated with the per pupil amount.

Mr. Schroeder explained how the proposed changes would impact not only the Washoe County School District, but all other school districts in Nevada. Since the per pupil amount was also projected to decrease, the working group recommended a phase-in approach to the new Charter School Adjustment, so the school districts were not hit with as much of a reduction in funding; however, due to changes in the Nevada Department of Education because of the election, the phase-in model was not included in any proposed legislation or budgets. If no changes were made to allow a phase-in approach, the District would see a decrease of \$58 per pupil from the state, which would amount to a total decrease of close to \$3.7 million based on projected enrollment.

Trustee Taylor requested additional clarification on per pupil funding for a student in a charter school. Mr. Schroeder stated charter school students had never been accounted for equitably in the Nevada Plan and the per pupil amount diluted. The charter school students did not receive the entire per pupil amount, but did receive around \$1,400 per student in Washoe County.

Mr. Mathers presented information on the impact of a 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for employees based on Governor Sisolak's recommendation. The concern of District staff was the current base funding allocation from the state did not include the 3% COLA. If the District included the COLA the structural deficit would increase.

President Simon Holland mentioned she, Trustee Taylor, and District staff met with the Governor's Office last week to discuss some of the concerns related to education funding. The Governor was adamant the full COLA recommendation should be included in the final budget for the District. The concern of all school districts in Nevada was that if the full 3% were to be included in the Distributive School Account (DSA), the school districts were only projected to receive an increase of a little over 1.2% in the per pupil amount. Based on the conversation, the District was including the COLA recommendation in the tentative budget; however, it was important to remember the increase did have a significant impact on the General Fund.

Trustee Caudill asked if the intent was to fund the 3% COLA during both years of the biennium. President Simon Holland indicated not at the present time. The District intended to be cooperative and collaborative, while at the same time being fiscally responsible.

Mr. Mathers continued with the presentation. Based on the 3% COLA, the total increase for salaries would be \$20.4 million, with revenues only projected to increase \$11.4 million. Additionally, the state was currently calculating an insurance increase of 3.7% when the District had seen an average increase in insurance of 8% over the past few years and included a 10% increase in the proposed tentative budget, which would lead to a shortfall for the District of \$2.7 million. Based on the current structural deficit projections and full COLA recommendation, the District was looking at a projected structural deficit of \$17.76 million if the phase-in approach to the charter school adjustment was approved and a projected structural deficit of \$21.45 million if the phase-in approach was not approved and a larger per pupil decrease occurred. However, with the information from the meeting with the Governor's Office, the District was hopeful the phase-in approach would be used or not even applied for the upcoming biennium so staff was presenting a tentative budget that included the \$17.76 million deficit. He added that all school districts were facing similar situations so the Washoe County School District was not alone in the uncertainty. The tentative budget, based on the additional information, would put the District with an ending fund balance of \$17.24 million, or 3.5%, for FY20.

President Simon Holland wondered if the District would be able to improve the ending fund balance by requesting an advance on the property tax income from Washoe County. Mr. Mathers noted the District would request such an advance annually and it did provide some relief for that time period, but would not provide the needed relief each month to ensure the District was not only able to pay monthly bills, but pay salaries and taxes.

Trustee Kelley asked if there were any proposed bills that would allow local governments to lower the ending fund balance amount below 4% before being placed on the fiscal watch list. Mr. Mathers stated he had not seen any language at the present time. He mentioned the 4% represented about half of one month's expenditures for the District and would not eliminate the concerns about paying bills and making payroll, but only eliminate the threat of fiscal watch by the state.

Mr. Mathers presented information on what the District was looking at moving forward based on current information. The District would continue to work with the Governor and Legislators on concerns to increase funding, including suspending the minimum textbook expenditure requirement for the biennium, allowing an increase to class sizes, changes to categorical funding to allow the revenue to go into the General Fund for greater flexibility by school districts, and pledge any additional revenues toward K-12 education funding. While many of the suggestions were well received by the Governor's Office, no commitments were made.

President Simon Holland wondered if there would be any changes to how the marijuana tax money would be allocated by the state. Mr. Mathers remarked there had been conversations related to the retail tax on marijuana moving from the State's Rainy Day Fund, but no final decisions made yet. One proposal was to divert some of that revenue towards school safety projects based on the recommendations from the Statewide Governor's Task Force on School Safety, but not towards school districts' base budgets.

Mr. Mathers reviewed some of the next steps that would be coming to the Board prior to the adoption of the final budget. For the remainder of the presentation, members of the District's Leadership Team would present different scenarios for the Board to consider in terms of reductions to programs or increases to fees intended to reduce the \$17.76 million projected structural deficit.

Mr. Schroeder reviewed the issues previously identified by the Trustees as ways for the District to reduce expenditures. Based on a Trustee request, the District conducted an athletic transportation fee analysis to increase cost recovery.

Jeff Bozzo, Budget Project Manager, presented the results of the analysis conducted by the Office of Business and Finance. The direct labor costs for athletic transportation for the 2017-18 School Year were \$785,000 and did not include fuel, maintenance, or other expenses that could not be directly tied to athletic transportation. The District collected 26% of the fees or \$205,305. Athletic fees were paid once per year, no matter the number of sports an athlete participated in. If a student could not pay the fee, they were not required to and there was no intention of changing that process even if the Board were to increase the fees. Currently, middle school athletes paid a \$5 fee and high school athletes paid a \$35 fee. An analysis for a 50% cost recovery was provided for both a per athlete fee and a per sport fee. If a per sport fee were used, the fee would not be as large of an increase for high school students, but a student would be required to pay additional fees if they were a multi-sport athlete. Analysis for a 75% cost recovery fee and a 100% cost recovery fee were provided as well.

Trustee Raymond wondered how many high school students were multi-sport athletes. Mr. Bozzo mentioned there were about 1,000 students.

Rollins Stallworth, Student Activities & Athletics Coordinator, indicated an additional issue for the District over the past few years had become the actual collection of the athletic transportation fees. He cautioned that not all the fee amounts would be collected so the actual numbers could be less than projected in the analysis. He mentioned it would be important to look at the amount actually turned in versus the amount that should have been turned in.

Trustee Raymond asked if the District knew the number of high school athletes unable to pay the current transportation fees. Mr. Stallworth replied they did not have the information at the present time and were working closely with the schools to get a better idea of the number of student athletes who had difficulty with the fees. Schools were not able to ask why a student could not pay.

Trustee Raymond wondered how the Washoe County School District compared to other school districts in Nevada in terms of fees. Mr. Mathers pointed out the District did reach out to other districts as part of the analysis. The Clark County School District did charge for athletic transportation but had not gotten back to the District on the amount. The neighboring school districts did not charge for athletic transportation. It was important to note that many other school districts across the country did charge for athletic transportation so it was not unheard of.

Superintendent Davis asked if the transportation fee was built into all athletic fees a student was required to pay. Mr. Stallworth commented that the transportation fee was built into the other athletic fees students were required to pay, such as the impact fee and facilities fee. The fees did not include the "spirit pack," which was considered optional by the District. The only fee that could not be waived for hardship was the impact fee since it was insurance related.

President Simon Holland asked if the District charged other student groups fees for transportation costs, such as band. Mr. Stallworth mentioned the transportation costs were generally paid by all students participating in athletics and activities that required District transportation to events.

Trustee Caudill asked if the analysis was conducted for all students or just athletes and if any approved increase would apply to all District transportation fees related to extra-curricular activities. Mr. Stallworth noted the information provided to the Board was just based on athletics and the increase would also apply to other activities that charged a transportation fee.

Trustee Raymond expressed concern over the impact on students who participated in multiple sports in terms of requiring a transportation fee per sport.

Trustee Caudill agreed and was also concerned about the impact on students who participated in both athletics and activities. He wondered if the District could look into providing some kind of package deal so students were not being forced to choose between a sport and another activity, such as debate. He feared that more often the sport would be chosen and the District would then see the participation in activities decline.

President Simon Holland mentioned her thinking was that the Board should consider increasing the fee; however, she was unwilling to go as far as increasing it by 100%.

Trustee Kelley remarked the Board had previously requested staff to be more aggressive in the collection of some fees, such as those related to Nutrition Services. He indicated he would be in favor of seeing a similar model used for the collection of other District fees because the 26% recovery seemed very low to him.

Trustee Taylor also agreed that a 100% increase was too high, but she also felt the 50% increase was also high. She would not want to see an increase in those unable to pay because the Board increased the amount too much.

President Simon Holland asked if there were other methods that could be used to off-set the costs of participation in athletics and activities, similar to a work-study program. Mr. Stallworth indicated the schools would conduct various fundraisers to off-set the costs of spirit packs. He was unaware of specific fundraisers to off-set the required costs related to transportation and other administrative costs and fees.

Mr. Schroeder explained the Board had previously requested to see what a smaller percentage in reductions to quartiles 3 and 4 programs from the Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) process would look like. The initial recommendations were based on a 50% reduction to quartile 3 programs and a 100% reduction to quartile 4 programs. A 5-10-20% model was used and the departments would present the information.

Dr. Kristen McNeill, Deputy Superintendent, presented the proposed reductions from the Office of School Leadership (OSL). Each area superintendent reduced their operating budgets using the 5-10-20% model. The operating budgets were used to provide additional supports to their 25-35 schools for items such as long-term substitutes, principal meetings, and assistance in funding larger office equipment.

Jason Trevino, Chief of School Police, reviewed the possible reductions to School Police. The first recommendation was to eliminate the District's Victims' Advocate position. Because the program was one person, there were no options to reduce the program with the 5-10-20% model. The second recommendation was to reduce the amount of overtime worked by officers, specifically related to athletic events. Information on how school police were able to either accrue comp time or overtime was provided. Three options of how athletic overtime could be reduced were presented for consideration and would result in a 54-72% reduction in the overtime liability.

Superintendent Davis asked what services the Victims' Advocate provided to the District. Chief Trevino emphasized the Victims' Advocate provided a variety of services to victims, either students or staff, in the District. The individual would assist with obtaining temporary protection orders, filling out information needed for court dates,

helping with how victims could receive restitution, and providing information on community resources. The position worked with all other victims' advocates in the area to ensure questions could be answered quickly and information shared as needed.

President Simon Holland wondered if the position was grant funded because many other similar positions in the area were funded by the state. Chief Trevino indicated the District had not been able to receive grant funding for the position yet but would continue to apply each year.

Trustee Taylor requested clarification on the amount provided to the Board related to overtime and if it was only just for overtime. Chief Trevino noted the \$36,000 was what had been paid out in overtime and did not reflect comp time accrued.

President Simon Holland asked if the District had considered the use of private security for athletic events or if that was even allowed under the negotiated agreement. Chief Trevino recalled the District had considered something similar in the past, but he recalled the Washoe School Police Officers Association had some concerns. He had also asked other law enforcement agencies in the area if some of their volunteer programs could be used but all were uncomfortable in committing volunteers unless a school police officer was always present.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Calvert that **the Board of Trustees accepts the "Option 1" recommendation from School Police to reduce overtime expenses and utilize roving officers for high school freshmen and junior varsity football and basketball games.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Victor Sherbondy, Executive Director, Office of Student Services, reviewed the 5-10-20% reduction model related to student athletics and activities. The reductions would have a direct impact to students and families attending playoff games and either the reduction or elimination middle school athletics.

Trustee Caudill stated he was not in favor of any of the proposed options provided, aside from the increase to athletic transportation fees previously discussed.

Trustee Raymond expressed frustration that there were no options presented that did not directly impact students. She understood there were few options left to consider because of prior reductions, but she hoped in the future, administrative reductions were considered.

President Simon Holland agreed with the prior comments and could not support any of the options presented.

Trustee Caudill requested additional information on which middle school sports would be eliminated under the 10% reduction model. Mr. Stallworth explained the non-cut sports would be looked at first, such as cross-country, which made up about 55% of all middle school sports. Additionally, since 6th grade would be moving up to middle school there would be more students impacted by cuts to programs.

Trustee Raymond added that the Board had heard from middle school students during school visits that they were interested in having additional athletic opportunities and longer seasons to be allowed to participate. Mr. Stallworth noted the Board had previously reduced the budget for middle school sports which resulted in the shortening of their seasons. He was already concerned about the equity in middle school athletics because some schools were able to play some additional games because the parents were able to afford the additional costs.

Trustee Caudill wondered if the District anticipated an increase in revenue for athletic transportation with the addition of 6th grade to middle school. Mr. Stallworth stated the District was not sure how 6th grade students would be able to participate in middle school sports. Currently, 6th graders were only allowed to participate in practices for non-cut sports but with more 6th grade students moving into middle schools the District was looking at additional opportunities for them.

Trustee Taylor agreed with the intent to increase participation for middle school students. She wondered if there were opportunities to increase revenue without increasing expenses, such as sharing of buses. Mr. Sherbondy stated the District had been looking into such options, especially related to increasing participation by 6th grade students, and were looking at intramural programming.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Caudill that **the Board of Trustees does not consider any of the options presented by the Office of Student Services and the Department of Athletics and Activities regarding reductions related to high school and middle school athletic travel and programming.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Pete Etchart, Chief Operations Officer, presented the 5-10-20% model reductions related to the Facilities Management Department. It was important to note that due to changes to District staffing levels for elementary and middle school custodians, those options included in the 5% reductions would occur. He added that there would not

really be a reduction in personnel, but movement because of the opening of new schools.

Tami Zimmerman, Deputy Director Facilities Management, reviewed the additional 5% options for the Board to consider, including a reduction in the number of groundskeepers at high schools by 5 positions and a 2% reduction to the custodial supply warehouse budget.

Trustee Taylor asked if the 2% reduction to the custodial warehouse would be for supplies or equipment. She wondered if some of the equipment could be purchased through WC-1 funds. Ms. Zimmerman indicated it would be both supplies and equipment. Mr. Etchart did not believe the equipment could be purchased using the capital funds for existing facilities.

Mr. Etchart reviewed the 10% reductions. The 5% reductions carried over and then additional reductions would be included to a reduction in the number of high school custodians, greatly increasing the square footage each custodian would be responsible for, and a reduction to the half-time administrative custodian. It was important to remember the reductions would impact the level of service all custodians would be able to provide and changes to the cleaning standards would have to occur. The final proposed reduction included under the 10% model was elimination of gym floor refinishing in the schools, which would then require school booster groups to fundraise for the refinishing. The 20% reductions included all items previously mentioned reductions plus the additional reduction of middle school and elementary school custodial positions.

President Simon Holland remarked that she was comfortable with the 5% reductions to the elementary and middle school custodians, as well as the half-time custodian for administration, but she was not comfortable with eliminating any additional high school custodial positions.

Trustee Caudill stated he could support the 5% reduction list but was uncomfortable with anything more until the Board had additional information on what the Legislature was planning.

Trustee Kelley requested clarification on the number of custodians at the new schools versus the older schools. Mr. Etchart stated the number of custodians at the older elementary schools could be reduced based on the allocation model. Since there would be fewer students at the overcrowded schools, there would be less need for the use of portables and the allocations previously assigned to the overcrowded schools would be moved to the new schools.

Trustee Raymond requested additional information on the reduction to the groundskeepers. Mr. Etchart stated the current average of acreage covered by groundskeepers in the District was 27.75 acres and the proposed reduction would increase that to 34.4 acres. The national average for school district groundskeepers was 18 acres. While he agreed the Board did need to look at all options, he reminded the community that if approved, the grounds for all schools and facilities would not be maintained the same standard and trash would not always be picked up or grass mowed.

Trustee Raymond remarked that she could agree with the custodial and warehouse supply reductions but would have difficulty agreeing to the reduction of the groundskeepers.

Trustees Calvert and Minetto agreed with Trustee Raymond. They believed the grounds of the schools were the face of the District and made an impression on all who visited or drove past.

Trustee Taylor added that the look and feel of the grounds had an impact on how the students and staff felt about their environment.

President Simon Holland recalled, during the budget forums, members of the community suggested having students help with the maintenance of both the interior and exterior of the buildings. Ms. Zimmerman indicated many of the schools already had various programs in place to allow students to participate in campus beautification efforts but there could be an increase to the District's liability insurance if students were performing regular duties assigned to staff. Mr. Etchart mentioned law enforcement work crews were not an option either because of various issues as well.

President Simon Holland recommended staff look at the juvenile work crews since they were primarily used on the weekends.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Raymond that **the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendations from Facilities Management to eliminate 2.5 elementary school custodian positions, 1 middle school custodian position, .5 administrative custodial position, and a 2% reduction to the custodial supply warehouse.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Mr. Mathers indicated those were the final recommendations for the 5-10-20% reduction model for the Board to consider for the General Fund. He recommended revisiting the discussion related to athletic transportation fees prior to reviewing other District funds.

President Simon Holland reviewed the previous discussion related to athletic transportation fees. She appreciated the discussion and the idea of increasing the number of fees collected.

Trustee Taylor stated she was uncomfortable with the \$68 increase for high school athletes because it was such a large amount. She could agree with a \$10 fee for middle school students but wondered what the total amount would be if the high school fee was around \$45 or \$50 on a per athlete basis. Mr. Mathers noted the \$50 would be about a 40% increase and result in \$305,305 in recovery costs.

Trustee Caudill added that if additional processes were put in place to ensure fees were paid, the District would be able to increase the recovery costs as well.

It was moved by Trustee Caudill and seconded by Trustee Taylor that **the Board of Trustees approves an increase in the per student athletic and activities transportation fee to \$10 for middle school students and \$50 for high school students and directs the Superintendent to look at methods to improve the collection rate for transportation fees.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

President Simon Holland moved the discussion back to the OSL recommendation to reduce the area superintendents' budgets.

Trustee Raymond mentioned 20% seemed like a manageable amount. She recalled seeing the transfers occurring in the monthly reports to the Board and that the total amounts to the schools were not large.

President Simon Holland agreed, but cautioned that it would be important to remember there would be an impact to the schools. She viewed the area superintendent budgets for the schools being like a contingency fund the schools were able to use.

It was moved by Trustee Kelley and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees accepts the 20% budget reduction recommendation from the Office of School Leadership to reduce the four area superintendents' budgets for schools.**

President Simon Holland opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Taylor requested additional information on how the area superintendent budgets were used. Dr. Troy Parks, Lead Area Superintendent, explained during the current school year, the area superintendents used their budgets to enhance the equity

work occurring by purchasing materials for all principals and administrators. Additionally, long-term substitutes could be paid out the budgets for schools that were not Title I schools or high-income schools, they would back-fill administrative positions if a school administrator moved schools during the year, and covered professional learning costs. The funds were really used on an as needed basis and the area superintendents would often request the principals pay for half the cost.

President Simon Holland asked if there would still be funds available with the proposed reduction. Dr. Parks answered in the affirmative.

The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Mr. Mathers moved the conversation to possible changes to the bell schedules for the District.

David Lasic, Chief of Staff, stated since the conversation was occurring so late in the year, the District was not recommending any changes until at least the 2020-21 School Year. Many schools were already establishing schedules and communicating that with parents. It would also be important to communicate possible changes with parents and the community to receive their input on the creation of a uniform bell schedule.

President Simon Holland remarked that she was uncomfortable waiting a year and a half since there would be a large savings. She wondered if it would be possible to make the change in January 2020, which was the middle of next school year. Rick Martin, Director of Transportation, cautioned that a change in the middle of the school year would disrupt continuity for students and families and require families to make major shifts in child care or other aspects of their day in the middle of the school year.

Trustee Caudill asked what the savings would be for a uniform bell schedule. Mr. Mathers stated about \$400,000.

Trustee Taylor requested the Board begin the discussion on changing the bell schedule early on during the next school year so it could be fully considered as an option for the Board to consider.

President Simon Holland added she would like to see a larger discussion on school start times as well.

Trustee Raymond remarked that it would be important for the District to communicate the savings that would be had related to the bell schedule because the conversation with the community would not be easy. She was also uncomfortable removing the

autonomy of the individual schools being able to know what was best for their community.

Mr. Schroeder returned to the presentation and reviewed the other funds managed by the District, including the Building & Sites Fund, Capital Projects, Special Revenue Funds (Grants), Special Education, Debt Services, Internal Services, and Nutrition Services. It was important to remember the revenues in the funds were restricted and could not be used to enhance the District's General Fund. The timeline for approval of the budget was reviewed.

President Simon Holland reviewed the budget reduction recommendations approved by the Board. The amount of savings was not as large as she had hoped for with the removal of the discussion on the bell schedules. She recalled that inclusion of the 3% COLA for all employees would increase the deficit to \$17.76 million. It was important to remember the Legislature had not approved the budget yet and the District would continue to work on receiving additional revenue.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Raymond that **the Board of Trustees approves the tentative budget for the 2020 Fiscal Year to include a 3% cost of living increase for all staff and a projected deficit of \$17.76 million.**

Trustee Taylor remarked that the Board of Trustees was fully supportive of the 3% COLA increase for staff, but it was still difficult to increase the structural deficit.

Trustee Caudill wondered if the District would be in a worse financial position if additional revenue was not included in the state budget.

President Simon Holland cautioned the Board did have other options, such as reducing the fund balance; however, the Board could also look at making additional cuts if the state did not come through as hoped before the final budget approved.

Trustee Raymond asked if the District would be penalized if they turned in a tentative budget with a deficit. Mr. Mathers stated no, the Department of Taxation only required the District to submit an explanation along with the tentative budget that stated the District would be revisiting the numbers.

Trustee Taylor reminded the Board that the District still had a request for proposal pending for health care that could result in a savings.

The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

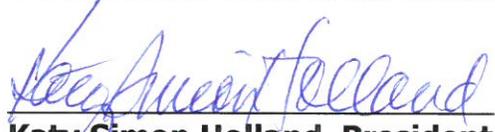
3. Closing Items

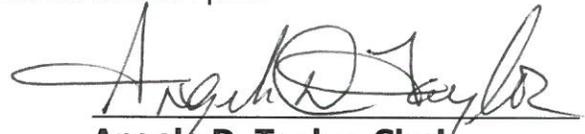
3.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

3.02 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Simon Holland declared the meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.


Katy Simon Holland, President


Angela D. Taylor, Clerk