

DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES FOR JANUARY 25th, 2018
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Special Board Meeting
Professional Development Room

January 25th, 2018
8:00 a.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The Dolores School Board special meeting was called to order at 8:17 a.m. on January 25th, 2018.
- II. ROLL CALL - Members present were: Casey McClellan, Vangi McCoy, Kay Phelps and Deanna Truelsen. Scott Cooper, Superintendent, and Doreen Jones, Finance Manager, were also in attendance.
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Vangi McCoy to approve the agenda.
Votes: McClellan-aye; McCoy-aye; Phelps-aye; Truelsen-aye
- IV. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2017-2018 - ACTION ITEM

Ms. Jones reviewed the budget line items, having two drafts, one with transportation building upgrades and without.

Highlights/Changes **Option 1:**

General fund – Budget is based on 696.1 students for funding.

- Beginning balances have been adjusted down, per audit from \$3,386,413 to \$3,192,311. The carryover was not as large as expected.
- Property taxes have gone up; specific ownership tax has gone down.
- Equalization has gone up about \$20,000.
- Infant/Toddler tuition is combined with preschool tuition.
- Revenue other local sources increased – there were some donations and monies not originally in the budget such as donations to Infant Toddler facility.
- CO Health Foundation Grant was not included in the original budget, \$478,000 has been added to revenue for the grant to build the school based health clinic.
- Interest is much higher than projected and has been raised by \$15,000.
- There are other grants that have been awarded that were unknown to Ms. Jones so she added those funds to the revenue also. One of the grants is the Read Act Grant that was awarded in the amount of \$26,047 for K-3rd.
- School Health Professional Grant has been added in the amount of \$121,840. That is a grant which can be applied for 2 additional years, and will fund the two social workers salaries and programs.

Expenditures – The majority of these monies is for salaries and benefits;

- Mill Levy monies covers \$390,000 of expenses, \$150,000 salaries, \$150,000 supplies and \$90,000 towards maintenance.

- Infant/Toddler – All the salaries are included in the preschool salaries, only the supplies, food, utilities and building renovation are separated from the preschool expenses.
- Not many changes in expenses occurred, except for the expenses that coincide with the additional grant revenue that was listed earlier. The Cortez-Special Ed Services budget increased by \$15,000 due to additional students being served at the Cortez School District
Currently \$110,782 will be used out of reserves to fund the budget draft #1.

Option 2: If a \$500,000 transfer is done for the transportation building, the amount of reserves allocated will be \$610,782.

Mr. McClellan asked how the money can be included in the budget if it's not been approved.

Ms. Jones explained it can be appropriated in the budget, it's not necessarily approved to be spent, it's just on paper until a final decision is made. Money will be included in the budget so that if there is a decision made to build or remodel the transportation building there will be \$500,000 allocated. If they don't do that now, it can't be accessed until next year's budget.

Mr. McClellan asked what specifically is in the budget to address education within the district, what is being done to turn around the academics. Dr. Cooper replied the literacy grant plays a big part for early education, along with funding of the two social workers. Dolores now has four mental health professionals; he feels this will decrease emotional problems of students, thereby increasing staff availability to better teach students, providing better learning opportunities and higher test scores. Mr. McClellan gets the benefit of increased health professionals, but what's happening with curriculum? Why aren't we seeing improvements in test scores and learning? He wants to be sure we're putting resources wherever they're needed to turn around the district, being that it's been in a steady decline for six years. Dr. Cooper explained things need to be done gradually, building on research based data, feeling they can't pile too much on the teachers and principals at once. The 4th-8th grades are where most of the dips are occurring, so counseling's been increased, smaller class sizes, etc.

Mr. McClellan: What else is being measured besides test scores and at the end of this year will we see increased test scores because of the social worker preference? Dr. Cooper replied, discipline reports, and he feels definitely, yes, he's very confident for the elementary; 7th and 8th, he feels there will be an increase but not sure that they'll actually be out of the red.

Mr. McClellan would like to have this discussion again in May/June to see results. He's also heard of frustrations by staff of bouncing around with so many different curricula and learning styles. Mr. McClellan wants to know what changed. What curricula were being used when we were "Accredited with Distinction"? Was it because of Everyday Math, and if so, why did we change it? Dr. Cooper attributes the decline to good, quality teachers being available to hire and staying here; he feels the increase in PD days for staff is good, he's been doing recruiting as well for quality staff. Dr. Cooper reports all districts across the state are struggling.

Mr. McClellan feels Dolores will lose even more good teachers by the inconsistency in what they're being asked to teach. Dr. Cooper likes consistency as well, but it's not possible to not make changes.

Ms. Phelps added that they have to teach within the cultural changes and she feels Everyday Math did not produce results, not only here but in many places.

Ms. Jones reported three teachers are going through math training with Cortez.

Dr. Cooper reported rural funding may become available to attract and retain high quality staff in the near future.

Budget discussion continued:

- Lunch Fund: Not as much revenue seems to be coming in; still in black, though, general fund does not contribute to lunch fund; they're trying to provide higher quality of food at the encouragement of the board.
- Capital Reserve/Capital Projects: 2nd half of bus paid for, maintenance truck, technology piece, nothing going to buildings this year. Funds for transportation department would be added here if they're approved.

Dr. Cooper thanked Ms. Jones for her work on the budget.

Ms. Truelsen asked Larry his thoughts on the bus barn and what's needed; Larry is all in favor of a new building, not add-ons, being that the building will be there for 50-70 years. New construction enables wash bay inside, safer, up to code, it is the most expensive option, but will be there for the long term.

Dr. Cooper's recommendation is to approve the budget with the \$500,000 available for the transportation building.

A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Vangi McCoy to transfer \$500,000 from reserves to the general fund for capital improvements for the transportation building.

Votes: McClellan-aye; McCoy-aye; Phelps-aye; Truelsen-aye

A motion was made by Deanna Truelsen and seconded by Vangi McCoy to approve the 2018 Fiscal Year Final Budget as presented and adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A PORTION OF BEGINNING FUND BALANCE AS AUTHORIZED BY COLORADO STATUTES

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 22-44-105 states that a budget, duly adopted pursuant to this article, shall not provide for expenditures, interfund transfers, or reserves, in excess of available revenues and beginning fund balance.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education may authorize the use of a portion of the beginning fund balance in the budget, stating the amount to be used, the purpose for which the expenditure is needed, and the district's plan to ensure that the use of the beginning fund balance will not lead to an ongoing deficit.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined the beginning fund balances in the GENERAL FUND are sufficient to allow for the one-time expenditures and the action will not lead to an ongoing deficit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

In accordance with C.R.S. 22-44-105, the Board of Education authorizes the use of a portion of the FY 2017-2018 beginning fund balance for the following funds:

General Fund \$610,782

The carry forward is for the Small Rural Grant and Early Literacy Grant for monies received but not yet spent and the balance is for a one time expense for establishing an infant/toddler center and building/remodel of our transportation building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the use of this portion of these beginning fund balances for the purposes set forth above will not lead to ongoing deficits in the funds.

ADOPTED THIS 25th day of January, 2018, Dolores RE-4A.

Be it resolved by the Board of Education of Dolores Re-4A School District/BOCES in Montezuma County, that the amounts shown in the following schedule be appropriated to each fund as specified in the Adopted Budget for the ensuing year beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018.

	APPROPRIATION AMOUNT
1 . General Fund	1. 10,853,441
1b. Insurance Reserve Fund	1b. 30,746
Special Revenue Funds:	
3. Food Service Special Revenue Fund	3. 264,423
5. Pupil Activity Special Revenue Fund	5. 254,116
Bond Redemption Fund	
9a. Bond Redemption Fund	9a. 1,068,865
Capital Projects Fund	
12. Capital Reserve Capital Projects Fund	12. 654,815
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	21. 3,126,406

Votes: McClellan-aye; McCoy-aye; Phelps-aye; Truelsen-aye

V. ADJOURNMENT was at 9:20 a.m. The next regular Workshop/Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8th, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.

Qu Frode 2-8-18
Board President Date

Deanna E. Paulsen 2-8-18
Board Secretary Date