

# Salida School District R-32-J Board of Education

**April 25, 2023 – 6 p.m.**

Crest Academy Great Room, 627 Oak Street, Salida

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

President Smith called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

In attendance were Directors Jodi Breckenridge Petit, Carrie Mattix, Joe Smith, Matt Hobbs, Mandy Paschall, and Ben Hill, Superintendent David Blackburn, Secretary Kim LeTourneau, and Co-Business Managers Shiela Moore and Aaron Dobson. Director Jenn Schuchman attended remotely, and Assistant Superintendent Will Wooddell shortly after the meeting started. Also in attendance were Darcy Harris, William Stokesberry, and Corinne Schieman.

Director Hobbs made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Paschall seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

There was no **Public Comment**.

## **Action Items**

Director Breckenridge Petit made a motion to **Approve the Operational Wish List as Recommended**. Director Mattix seconded the motion.

Superintendent Blackburn opened discussion by clarifying what a vote to approve the operational wish list means. A yes vote would show approval for the assumptions being used to build the budget. If approved, the District will continue forward with the assumptions presented, based on the most updated information provided by CDE and the State of Colorado.

Shiela Moore then began a review of the provided documents detailing the current estimates available for building a budget for the '23-'24 school year.

There are three significant variables that are still very fuzzy on how they will impact the budget – rural funding from the state, Colorado's free lunch program and how it will interact with the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program, and the initiation of the Universal Preschool (UPK) program. Blackburn noted that the District tried to begin the budgeting process staying very fiscally conservative until more of these details become clear.

The '23-'24 budget will include the 3<sup>rd</sup> mill levy increase due to the State's correction of local mill levy.

It was noted that utility costs have gone up, in some instances as much as 3 times. Those increased numbers are in the recommendation.

Moore then talked through the recommended recurring operational expenses.

It was also noted the Board's approval of paying the 8% increase to the cost of health insurance premiums, a \$120,000 cost to be paid by the District instead of being passed down to employees. It was also noted the inclusion of salary schedule steps and levels, a cost of \$152,300.

The Board discussed the assumptions made about enrollment in coming years. Many districts across the state are seeing decreasing enrollment numbers, and Salida Schools is anticipating flat or minimal increases. Superintendent Blackburn is still working on confirming the demographics study requested by the Board to help answer some of these questions. Included in this study will be a review of birthrates to help understand what enrollment could look like in coming years.

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The Board then discussed the proposed recurring transfer amounts (box 2 on Operational Wish List FY23-24), which included a recommendation to increase the amounts set aside for all campuses, athletics and resource adoption. The recommendation was adjusted to maintain the amounts for SHS, LES, HEA, and Kesner facilities. This brings the increase in recurring transfer amounts to \$539,400, an increase in \$210,000 from last year's budget. This amount includes an estimated \$50,000 in set asides for school impact fees in an annual recurring transfer for future use. These fees are collected from builders through a required permit fee. This transfer of funds to Fund 43 is to clearly label and isolate the funds for future use.

Blackburn and Moore then reviewed the positions that were not being recommended in Box 3, with specific conversation around Spanish programming, instructional coaches, and additional contract days. If there is more money available later in the fiscal year then these positions may be reconsidered, as well as changing policy around staff placement for years of experience.

Moore then noted the sheet provided with an update on the '23-'24 capital projects for reference. There was excitement about the progress, especially for the outdoor improvements at The Crest Academy including the playground. Documents also provided for reference were the approved '23-'24 Capital Wish List and a Cash Flow Exercise detailing Fund 10 Income from State & Property Tax.

Moore discussed with the Board the decision to post the CDE uniform budget report versus the CDE 18 spreadsheet to meet fiscal transparency. No Board member expressed concern over that change as it met the CDE regulations, and the auditors were comfortable with that change.

The Board confirmed that a yes vote would approve the items listed in the first box of the Operational Wish List for '23-'24, with the exception that the increases to recurring set aside transfers, as noted in box 2, not include the increases for SHS, LES, HEA, and Kesner. None of the items in the 3<sup>rd</sup> box were asked to be included in the approvals.

Said motion was voted on as follows: Dr. Breckenridge Petit, yes; Dr. Hill, yes; Mr. Hobbs, yes; Mrs. Mattix, yes; Mrs. Paschall, yes; Ms. Schuchman, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; and was approved.

### **Calendar of events**

The Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on May 9, 2023, 6 p.m. at The Crest Academy. Director Schuchman will join Superintendent Blackburn, President Smith and Secretary LeTourneau on Monday, May 1 for agenda review. The Board will also hold a special meeting on May 23, 2023 at 5 p.m. at The Crest Academy to review and approve the budget for '23-'24.

Director Breckenridge Petit made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim LeTourneau, Board Secretary



Joe Smith, Board President