

**Budget Committee  
Minutes  
September 28, 2010**

Present: M. Beck, B. Boyd, R. Buckley, J. Burk, E. Coburn, B. Cummings, S. Heinrich,  
M. Publicover, A. Schneider and School Board liaison C. Ortega  
Excused: T. Beard, G. Markwell

A. Schneider called the meeting to order at 7: 03 P.M and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to approve the minutes of September 9, 2010 with any corrections. Second: E. Coburn.

B. Boyd questioned E. Coburn's procedural right to second approval of minutes for a meeting she did not attend. E. Coburn withdrew her second. A. Schneider accepted her withdrawn second, but said he felt that E. Coburn could have seconded the motion even though she would be abstaining when it came to a vote.

M. Publicover seconded the motion.

C. Ortega requested the minutes reflect that the Committee would only be filling vacant seat until the next election.

MOTION PASSED 7 – 0 – 3, with R. Buckley, J. Burk, and E. Coburn abstaining.

**Procedural Issue**

A. Schneider stated he wanted to clear up a procedural issue. He said that some Board, Commission and Committee chairs do not make motions but, historically, Budget Committee chairs have made motions and seconded motions. A. Schneider said that he would restrict when he makes motions to situations where the goal would be to move the discussion toward a conclusion, but that he was reserving his right to make motions.

**Interview Process**

A. Schneider reviewed the process by which the Committee had advertised the open seat. He said he had received one letter of interest from Rick Barnes, a former Committee member. He pointed out that a letter, post-marked by the deadline, could still arrive. He opened the floor for motions or comments.

R. Buckley made a MOTION to invite Mr. Barnes to join the Committee. Second: B. Boyd. R. Buckley stated that Mr. Barnes had been a member of the Committee for at least three years and knows the process.

Discussion included the following points:

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- The committee agreed and advertised that interviews would be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The committee might be setting a bad precedent to circumvent the agreed upon process.

R. Buckley and B. Boyd WITHDREW the MOTION on the floor.

R. Buckley made a MOTION that the Committee accept Mr. Barnes' application, interview him on October 5<sup>th</sup> and accept him as a member of the Committee if no other applications are received with the correct postmark. Second: B. Boyd.

Discussion included the following points:

- The Committee could decide not to fill the seat.
- The Committee should go through the process.
- Mr. Barnes might decide not to be interviewed.

R. Buckley and B. Boyd WITHDREW the motion on the floor.

A. Schneider stated the Committee would hold interviews on October 5<sup>th</sup> and then vote on filling the vacant seat.

#### **Committee's Budget Message for Administration**

A. Schneider stated that he had received input for the Committee's budget message from several members and written a draft message, which had been emailed, to all members. He asked if his approach to the message met with the intent of the Committee.

Discussion included the following points:

- The draft captured the intent of many members' ideas.
- Some things suggested by some members were not included.
- What process would be used to review and revise the message?
- Should individual members comments be attached to the final message?
- Some things suggested could be construed as unfair labor practices.
- Some things suggested are day-to-day operation or policy issues, not money related, i.e. beyond the scope of the Committee's job.
- Is this letter a duplication of efforts?
- The Committee had previously voted 9 – 1 – 0 to write this letter.
- B. Boyd had sent A. Schneider a draft letter taking a different approach, which A. Schneider had also emailed, to all members.
- Instead of a letter, would a better approach be just talking to Administration and/or going to School Board and liaison meetings prepared to ask questions?
- Will Administration listen to the Committee's suggestions?
- The job of the Committee is to see to it that the District has the funds needed get children educated.

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S Heinrich made a MOTION to rescind the action of the Committee to send an advisory letter to Administration. Second: E. Coburn.

Discussion included the following points:

- Maybe liaisons could meet with department heads earlier.
- Some of the suggestions for the letter were based on inaccurate or lack of sufficient information.
- Liaison assignments have not yet been made.

MOTION PASSED: 8 – 2 – 0 with M. Beck and M. Publicover voting in opposition.

A. Schneider thanked everyone who had sent in information and stated that he and B. Cummings would work on liaison assignments as soon as possible. He said that liaison assignments and approaches to liaison meetings would be item on the next meeting agenda.

S. Heinrich invited any Budget Committee member, who is interested in learning more about the project consolidating the SAU and SpEd offices, to contact any member of the School Planning & Building Committee and stated that the Planning & Building Committee would be delivering a report to the School Board on this project in October.

M. Beck said he thought the exercise of coming up with questions for a budget message would be helpful when it is time to go to liaison meetings.

M. Publicover requested that A. Schneider notify Mrs. Chiafery of the Committee's decision not to write a budget message.

### **Other**

A. Schneider told the Committee that a "Right to Know" Training, to which the Committee has been invited, is tentatively set for October 26<sup>th</sup>. He said he would advise members when details of time and location are finalized.

### **Next Meeting**

A. Schneider said the next meeting would be on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The agenda will include Interview/Vote on candidate to fill the vacancy and Liaison Assignments. He requested that B. Boyd submit a formal request to include a by-law sub-committee on the agenda.

B. Boyd made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: S. Heinrich. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

A. Schneider adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich