

SULTAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 311
MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION BOARD MEETING
April 26, 2011
SULTAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
501 DATE STREET, SULTAN WA
7:00 PM

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Russ Sumpter
Tracy Cotterill
Craig Roesler
Steve Fox

Superintendent Present

Dan Chaplik

Board Members Absent

Patty Fountain

Student Rep Absent

Zach Day

Visitors Present: None

Jackie Whaley, Superintendent's Secretary absent, out of district to a CVA workshop in Vancouver, WA.

Staff Present: Layne Anderson, Dave Moon, Bruce Fletcher

Call To Order

Chairman Roesler called the special meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Public Input

None

Superintendent Dan Chaplik discussed proposed budget cuts and the preparation process for the 2011/12 budget with the Board of Directors. Dan shared background budget information: Entering into year three of trying to maintain a quality educational system and high levels of learning while doing a reduction in force. The district has used several different ways of involving and receiving recommendations from staff and community members in the budget planning process. The change for this year is due to the budget consisting of 82-84% staff. The Board of Directors has directed the Superintendent to propose budget cuts to the Board of Directors, adopt the resolution, then staff and community members can respond to the board regarding budget cuts. Dan also stated that the legislature is still in session and that things could change, but that the district will make cuts according to the information that is currently available to them. The district used several informational processes in preparation for budget cuts:

- Dan visited and presented a PowerPoint presentation to staff at each building.
- The district also created a public survey online with common questions that are being asked by district's across the county
- There were two public meetings held which were not well attended

The problem with budget cuts is that sometimes it pits employee groups against one another. The district's goal is to move forward and trim the budget without amputation of any programs.

The longer this economic climate continues, the harder this becomes with state cuts and declining enrollment; spending is out-pacing revenues. Enrollment and funding is very unpredictable.

The state has taken back funds in 10/11 for the first time, for a total loss of \$179,000 to the district this year; just one additional reason for a fund balance. The Senate debated today to give district's access to interest free loans in June and July due to the State's plan to change apportionment days. There is a proposal to cut salaries 3% at the state level. Hopefully, the 3% cut will be mandated at the state level rather than district's making up the difference.

The district's current enrollment projection is 1780 with a reduction in K-4 funding (\$215,000/2.6 teaching positions) which is one half of the total reduction that needs to occur in the 11/12 budget. Another area discussed was a decrease in enrollment creating a need to have additional multi-age classrooms. Recommended RIF information will be presented at the 5/2/11 board meeting; possibly with additional cuts elsewhere in the future. SRO position was discussed; all agreed that the presence of a SRO has had a very positive impact on the environment at SHS.

An increase to sports fees was discussed as increased fees were given positive input in the online budget survey. There is a concern for families that have financial difficulty paying current costs for participation. SMS football should be discussed; the board will need to decide to cut/not cut this program. Superintendent Chaplik stated that he has felt that the board's philosophy has always been to keep as many options for students as possible. The reason for discussion of the SMS Football Program is 1) SMS football is the most expensive sport program at the middle school level at \$15,000., 2) there is a safety net for the program in the community football program and, 3) district's have eliminated middle school programs which limits competition. Would there be a need to cancel a female sport to keep in line with Title IX? Superintendent Chaplik stated that that would need to be investigated.

Administrative cuts: the concept is to look at enrollment; one administrator for every 250 students. 2011/12 budgeted enrollment is for 1780 in the traditional program and 360 in the ALE program. There is a possibility of using a grant for 50% of one administrative salary in 11/12 to restructure one position to be at the district level 50% of the time.

There was a proposed cut of \$35,000 in the district office budget. Chairman Roesler asked how the 1.0 custodial cut will impact buildings cleaning schedules. Superintendent Chaplik stated that it decreases the cleaning of buildings somewhat; tasks are placed on a priority list; such as vacuum every other day rather than every day, clean restrooms, wipe down handles and water fountains daily. The idea is to put tasks into a priority list, with only items on the number one list being done daily.

Superintendent Chaplik stated that if this decrease in state funding continues through next year there will be most likely be a discussion about decreasing specialist positions at the elementary level.

Cuts to transportation routes will help decrease transportation costs in 11/12.

Superintendent Chaplik stated that there is a intramural sports program in place.

Director Russ Sumpter stated that the Board of Directors wants to be assured that budget cuts are made across the district and no one area is targeted.

Tracy Cotterill asked if all staff remain at work on early release days. Mr. Chaplik stated that schedules have been revised for the early release days for some classified staff, as well state mandated training on early release days for the classified employees that are not tied to student learning.

Adjournment Being there was no further business, Chairman Roesler adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm.

Jackie Whaley
Recording Secretary

Dan Chaplik, Superintendent

Craig Roesler, Chairman