

**SHELTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 309
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2020**

The Shelton School District Board of Directors met in a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 19, 2020 via a Zoom meeting.

Board members present: Chairman Sandy Tarzwell, Vice-Chairman Sally Karr, Sally Brownfield, Keri Davidson and Lynn Eaton.

Staff members present: Superintendent Alex Apostle, Alison Nutt, Bob McMath, Brenda Trogstad, Don Welander, Bob Trondsen, Robert Herron, Kelly Neely, Maryann Marshall, Katie Diamond, Karen DeWitt, Bob McMath and Jenny LaFrenier, among others.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tarzwell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and said we may have many community members wishing to speak tonight. The board welcomes input from the public and allows each person three minutes to speak.

Dr. Apostle welcomed everyone to the meeting and appreciates their attendance. This evening we will present the recommended 2020-21 school district budget which takes into account may issues.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

One e-mail was received wondering about platforms and how K12 works.

2020-21 BUDGET

Brenda Trogstad reported that at the last board meeting she presented an overview of the proposed 2020-21 budget. The budget had to be submitted to the ESD earlier in July to review for compliance which has passed and is now in review at OSPI. Formal budget adoption will take place at the August 25, 2020 regular board meeting. Brenda shared a screen shot of a spreadsheet on the proposal that has gone through the school board and was submitted with the budget to the ESD and OSPI. Things change almost weekly and sometimes daily. We have reduced needs for some positions at this time.

Reduced needs to layoff some positions at this time are:

- 29.725 FTE Paraeducator staffing – reduced needs - online learning
- 5.04 FTE Food Service staffing – we have been serving breakfast/lunch since the shutdown but lost \$600,000 last year – we will be serving breakfast/lunch pickups at the Bordeaux, Evergreen and Shelton High School sites this year but can only serve Shelton School District students and will no longer be doing free meals – it will be free/reduced or paid meals
- 20.19 FTE Bus Drivers – state will not be giving us full transportation funding this year – we also are not transporting kids to/from school – we do have some special ed routes that go to other cities to transport those students – we are also keeping a few drivers who may transport a few students to our schools – our transportation funding pays for these positions
- 2 FTE Mechanics – nonhigh districts have also gone online so we will have minimal buses on the road but we will be continuing our work on our fleets
- 7.641 FTE Secretaries - reduced needs for some positions at this time

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- 8 FTE Custodians – don't have students so not as large of need
- 0.5 FTE Aquatic Director – we can't use the pool right now

Dr. Apostle said there are 3 factors that are very important in discussing this budget. #1 is enrollment and our hope is that all of our students will come back because we are offering a robust K12 platform that our district staff will teach. But enrollment is still an issue because we don't know yet how many students will come back. We have budgeted 4,125 FTE students. #2 is that we have heard from the state that they are anticipating a \$10 billion deficit this year which will have impact on the years following. We not only planned for the 2020-21 academic year but also have to be cognizant of the next 2 years. #3 is if we go to a hybrid model it will be more costly than the online model. Our responsibility is to maintain solvency and he believes we are providing for solvency and a continuation of our excellent educational program under these circumstances.

Chairman Tarzwell said these are very good points and the things the school board has been discussing while still trying to move forward to protect the programs we have and still give students opportunities and still provide the healthy environment we need. The decision to go online has allowed staff to focus directly on preparing for one model of teaching and being able to focus on getting ready for school. The board spent a lot of time weighing the pros/cons of these reductions and there was a lot of thought processes along the way and different reductions to look at: It has been a hard and long thoughtful process with a lot of discussion with a lot of people and looking at a lot of different scenarios.

Keri Davidson added that the board has been meeting weekly on the budget and it is not lost on any of the board members that these are people who are going to be layed off or positions not filled at all. She is hopeful when we get a better understanding from the state we can continue to reassess and look at our needs. Unfortunately this is where the district is at this point in time.

Dr. Apostle also said it is very important for everyone to realize this is where we are today. We have to deal with the current situation and this is based on the current variables before us. Enrollment is a critical issue. He believes we are going to present an exceptional online program and our teachers and administrators will put forth the very best educational experience for students. We will support our families and students who have special needs. If we need more bus drivers and food services workers we can look at that. We will provide for these special situations as they come about. He truly believes Shelton has the capacity to excel in these very difficult times. Every single school district in Washington and America is dealing with the same issues we are talking about this evening. The key is that we be flexible from day to day. As Superintendent he will assure that we will move forward with earnest in what we say we are going to do. We have to be cognizant in the years to come because we don't want to be in a negative position. We want to best for everyone but these are very challenging times.

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Chairman Tarzwell said we have the list of budget reductions and layoffs and if we come back to school in a hybrid or face to face model those will be additional expenses and will become more costly. We have seen the state withhold funds for one reason or another but that doesn't relieve us of our obligations to meet our payroll and pay our bills. We have to be sure we have enough money.

Dr. Apostle added that we never want to go backwards in terms of our academic programs so that is why we are making these recommendations – we owe this to our kids. He does not like making these recommendations because he knows our people are very valuable and hopes things will get better with the pandemic and our financial situation so we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Lynn Eaton thanked all staff who worked very hard making these tough decisions. As a new board member she received a lesson quickly on school district finance and it is very complex. She is behind every one of the people who are going to be impacted and thanked staff for trying to be creative in as many areas as possible to reduce the loss of jobs. Losing this many jobs at this time is very tough. Revenue is tied to our enrollment and it's a very complex game to try to make all these pieces fit together and unfortunately that is never easy. She thinks we landed in good place and hopefully many of these layoffs are temporary. We will see as year progresses and into next year.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 20-06 – REDUCTION IN FORCE

Dr. Apostle said we have presented a budget that will carry us through these very difficult times and is hoping this Resolution will be passed by the board so we can try to move forward. Enrollment will be very impacting in terms of the next steps for the district and he hopes our families will stay with us.

Sally Karr said this Resolution is not formally on our agenda for approval tonight and this may not be something we are able to do. Keri Davidson added the agenda does not list formal action tonight – only a budget presentation. Chairman Tarzwell asked if we have a recommendation since this is what our attorney has set forth and recommends approval tonight. Dr. Apostle said our attorney did not give us any direction to put this Resolution as a separate agenda item and would highly recommend we approve tonight so we can move on. Chairman Tarzwell asked if the board would consider passing the Resolution contingent on advising with our attorney regarding OPMA. The board wants to be sure we are in compliance with the OPMA.

Lynn Eaton made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-06 establishing a reduced educational program contingent with advise from our attorney if this in compliance with the OPMA. Keri Davidson seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Chairman Tarzwell acknowledged that at the August 25th meeting will have a public hearing on the budget to hear any public comments.

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Shelly Dunnington called in with a public comment and said she checked the agenda which says the board is not approving anything tonight and as a community members she has issues with that. The agenda must show that there will be action on the Resolution. She also commented that we are cutting athletics/activities but are keeping 2 Athletic Directors. Brenda Trostad said she just spoke with our attorney who said we can't take action tonight and will need to call a separate meeting with 24 hour's notice.

Sally Karr agreed that the motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-06 will not be able to stand tonight. Lynn Eaton made a motion rescind the board's previous motion and Sally Karr seconded the motion to be in compliance with the OPMA. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob McMath said many additional public comments have been received in mailbox and YouTube stream. The entire board meeting is recorded and will be posted on the district's website where all community comments can be heard in their entirety.

Chairman Tarzwell thanked the public for their comments and invited people to participate in the public hearing on the budget at the August 25th meeting.

ADJOURN

At 6:58 p.m. Keri Davidson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sally Brownfield seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

DocuSigned by:

Alex Apostle

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Superintendent and Secretary to the Board
Alex Apostle

DocuSigned by:

Sandy Tarzwell

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Chairman, Board of Directors
Sandy Tarzwell