

**SHELTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 309
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2020**

The Shelton School District Board of Directors met in a special meeting on August 21, 2020 via a Zoom meeting.

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

Staff members present: Superintendent Alex Apostle, Alison Nutt, Terry Meisenburg, Brenda Trogstad, Don Welander, Bob Trondsen, Kelly Neely, Maryann Marshall, Katie Diamond, Jenny LaFrenier and Deena Alley, Bob McMath and Aaron Miller, among others.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tarzwell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed everyone to the special meeting.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of the meeting is to consider Resolution No. 20-06 – Reduced Educational Program which was omitted from the agenda at the August 19, 2020 special meeting. The August 19th special meeting generated a lot of comments and we expect a lot of comments today. The goal is to post all the questions from the August 19th meeting and today's meeting on our website along with responses to the questions. The board may consider Resolution No. 20-06, the board may reject it or they may defer the Resolution to a later time.

Dr. Apostle also welcomed everyone. We will present Resolution No. 20-06 which takes into account many issues but none more important than the solvency of the school district.

OVERVIEW OF THE 2020-21 DISTRICT BUDGET

Brenda Trogstad shared the General Fund budget summary of what was submitted to the ESD with a deadline of July 10, 2020. The ESD has reviewed for compliance and it has been moved on to OSPI for their review. A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for the August 25, 2020 meeting for public comment then adoption of the budget later in the meeting. The budget must be adopted by August 31, 2021.

- The budget is based on 4,125 FTE students but we are not sure how our enrollment will be coming in being totally online
- There is a \$2.5 million beginning fund balance
- Projected revenues are \$67,428,771
- Projected expenditures are \$65,441,016
- Projected ending fund balance is \$4,487,755 (6.7% fund balance)
- 85.14% of the budget is salaries and benefits
- Also the state passed through a 1.6% cost of living increase the district must pass through to staff

It was brought up in the August 19th meeting that we are receiving CARES Act money through the federal government. The grant has been accepted and our allocation is \$975,000 to be used

**SHELTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 309
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2020**

in COVID related expenses. The guidance has been from OSPI not to use this money for things you need to sustain. This money will be spent on such things as:

- \$20,000 Testing of special education students
- \$250,000 Providing principals and other staff resources on anything from online learning supplies, additional training for staff, anything that keeps the process going during pandemic, etc.
- \$100,000 Professional Development for staff on how to sanitize and minimize the spread of COVID
- \$25,000 Purchasing supplies for sanitizing
- \$250,000 How to provide meals, technology for online learning and guidance for carrying out special education IDEA
- \$150,000 Purchasing hot spots for families that can't have connection and buying additional Chromebooks for students and additional technology for teachers
- \$180,237 Providing Professional Development for when we come back from a hybrid model. We have to provide PPE - \$100,000 in facemasks is only getting us a 3 month supply.

The district has to spend the money first and do a grant claim the following month for reimbursement. We will also be doing a claim to recoup the childcare costs for first responders in the county from last spring. We have reached out to the ESD and OSPI and have been hearing that there is a possibility that when the legislature comes into session in January that they will deduct the \$975,000 out of next year's revenue. Brenda again shared the spreadsheet she shared at Wednesday's meeting. We are at a 8.53% reduction from last year's expenditures.

Dr. Apostle said he wants the community to know there are 3 major factors impacted. #1 is enrollment because we are not sure if that enrollment is actually going to take place until school begins. If we don't meet our enrollment projection that spells trouble since our budget is based on enrollment. #2 is the fact that the state is telling us of a \$10 billion budget deficit which could grow to \$12 billion next year and we don't know how that will affect school districts. #3 is that at some point we will be moving to a hybrid model which is more costly than 100% online learning. We have been meeting weekly with the board to discuss these in-depth issues. This is a very difficult decision and we were hoping it would be something different but this is where we are as of August 21, 2020. Things could change for the better or worse but we are prepared as much as possible for anything that comes.

Chairman Tarzwell mentioned the ending fund balance. We have experienced a state shutdown twice in recent years and there have been times when the state doesn't pay as much as we calculated but that does not relieve us of our obligations so we have to have a sufficient fund balance. Dr. Apostle added that we understand school finance and school budgets and have a clean audit with no findings. We know how to reallocate, reduce or enhance when appropriate. We have thought through every angle on this budget.

**SHELTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 309
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2020**

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Chairman Tarzwell read the public comment procedures and asked everyone to be mindful of their comments.

34 community comments were received by e-mail and read in their entirety by Bob McMath and Aaron Miller. Comments heard were on the following topics:

- Staff reductions
- CARE funding if it isn't being used to keep our employees
- Having 2 athletic directors when we don't have athletics
- Paras being cut
- Attempting to pass a Resolution on August 19th which was not on the agenda
- Why the district chose K12 as our online curriculum
- Why are we not providing curriculum for classes/areas outside of the core areas
- The cost of K12
- How will teachers survive and not burnout without paras alongside them
- How the district will run with the reduction of paras
- How does the district propose to make sure the needs of all students are met, especially our vulnerable students
- How does the district plan to ensure all students, especially those with 504's and IEP's receive the support they need
- How is the district going to lessen the impact students and staff will feel by the district cutting such a large number of paras
- What is the district plan to meet the needs of the district 800+ English learners and how does the district plan to afford students/families access
- How are we vetting our coaches
- Why are we keeping our Director of Academies
- Why do schools need to have principals working full time doing online learning
- Why is the district budget being announced so close to the first day of school
- Will employees still have insurance benefits until the end of the year if laid off
- Is the district getting federal funds for special ed students with IEP's that require 1 on 1

Bob McMath said there is also a very lengthy list of comments posted to the YouTube stream. Board members agreed if we can post these comments on the website, along with what was read this afternoon that might be more appropriate and we will include them in the Q and A. The board meeting will be posted on the district website where the community comments can be heard in their entirety.

Chairman Tarzwell thanked everyone for taking the time to provide comments and we value your input. We have discussed a great many of these issues and there is no perfect solution.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-06 – REDUCTION IN FORCE

Chairman Tarzwell commented that the Resolution has been made available on the district's website. Brenda Trogstad said that in working with the district's attorney this is the

**SHELTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 309
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2020**

recommendation to legally adopt a Resolution when you do a RIF. Chairman Tarzwell said the board chose to wait a little longer to present this so we would have fewer moving targets and better information. She then read the following comment received from board member Lynn Eaton who could not be present:

"I think it is important that we postpone this decision until the next regular board meeting. I know staff had reason to try to expedite the decision that was intended to be compassionate to the employees affected however over the last couple day's people expressed concerns and want a chance to be heard. When we are making a decision that affects people so directly we need to be thorough and extremely transparent in our processes. I also think that the public needs to hear more explanation (as the board has heard in budget study sessions) about the specific reasons for these budget cuts. I apologize for not being here in person today but could not break away from work. I hope the board considers postponing this decision."

Sally Karr agreed with Lynn's comments and moved that we delay a vote on Resolution No. 20-06 until the August 25, 2020 board meeting. Keri Davidson also agreed with postponing. Sally Brownfield seconded the motion to delay the vote until August 25, 2020 and the motion passed 4-0.

ADJOURN

At 2:54 p.m. Sally Brownfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sally Karr and the motion passed 4-0.

DocuSigned by:

Sandy Tarzwell

E0D2CAD30A0C42B

Chairman, Board of Directors
Sandy Tarzwell

DocuSigned by:

Alex Apostle

C465582080414BC

Superintendent and Secretary to the Board
Alex Apostle