

Budget Committee Meeting
April 18, 2022 4:40 PM
Central Services Board Room

1. Call to Order - Mr. Chris King
2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Chris King
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Overview/Introduction of '22-'23 Budget
5. Budget Bulletin Board Items
6. Other Discussion
7. Adjournment

Budget Committee Meeting
February 7, 2022
Central Services Board Room

The Budget Committee met on Monday, February 7, 2022, in the Central Services Board Room where Mr. Chris King called the meeting to order at the approximate hour of 4:40 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and appreciated everyone for attending.

PRESENT:

Mr. Chris King, 6 th District	Mrs. Teresa Boston, 8 th District
Dr. Ina Maxwell, Director of Schools	Mrs. Stephanie Barnes, CAO
Mrs. Kacee Harris, CFO	Mr. Jim Inman, 1 st District.
Mrs. Angela Randolph, Federal Programs Director	Earl Patton, ATTY
Mrs. Stace Karge, 9 th District	Mrs. Anita Hale, 4 th District
Mr. Stephen Prudhomme, Media	

ABSENT: None

- 1. Call to Order – Mr. Chris King**
- 2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Chris King**
- 3. Recognition of Elected Officials**-Mr. King recognized Sue York.
- 4. Approval of Committee Minutes**
Karge moved to approve. Hale with a second.

King: Any discussion? All in favor?

Karge/Hale: Aye

VOICE VOTE: Karge (mover-yes)
Hale (seconder-yes)
All Ayes

MOTION: Carried Unanimously

5. Athletic Committee Proposal

Mr. King introduced the proposal.

King: Everyone familiar with it? Anyone want to talk about it?

Harris: I can say a few words about it. It's pretty self-explanatory. Proposal #2 on your sheet there is what was asked by the Athletic Committee to bring to Budget for consideration. This is a proposal to reward the longevity of coaches by giving them a step raise for every 5 years' experience of their field, their sport. There were a couple of proposals considered. This one that came from the Athletic Committee to the Budget Committee is that it would give credit for their time as a school coach no matter where it was served. Not necessarily here in Cumberland County. I think one member of the committee said it's similar to the recruit and retain-it might help recruit some coaches and it might help retain coaches that we have. As far as cost goes, Coach Parker from SMHS did a massive undertaking and excellent job of surveying coaches and their current experience levels. I've reviewed those numbers and think they are as accurate as we can get. I do think that this proposal, we estimated a first year of

about \$52,000 price tag. I would encourage the Budget Committee to put this kind of on the board for consideration as we move forward in the context of the whole budget. We're going to have several proposals coming forth from various departments and committees. It can fluctuate a little bit so that's one thing I wanted to point out to the Budget Committee. I think that's the best estimate we have for next years' cost. We loose an in experienced coach and replace him with a more experienced coach, that number could easily be a little more, a little less. It's just really for you to have in front of you, for consideration, to think about, but I would encourage as far as any action on it, to stew on it, think on it and us come back in the greater context of things. Any questions?

King: Was there a recommendation from the committee?

Harris: The committee recommended proposal #2 come to the Budget Committee for discussion and consideration.

Karge: Move to approve the proposal 2 to pass on to the full board.

Boston: I think we what, and Kacee I'm going to elaborate just a little bit. During the budget season we've got several things coming in from different areas. Possibly our non-certified salaries, which I know we have to look at. I think we've got a proposal coming back from the salary study group on paying teachers for working ballgames. All of this could easily add up to quite a substantial amount. With them changing the BEP formula and the boards will probably have about a year to adapt and reformulate their budget to accommodate all of this. I don't know how we could move forward spending that money until we know where it's coming from. And that's a reoccurring expense, that's not just a one-time expense.

Karge: Mr. Chair? I will never not want to pass on to the full board anything that has to do with increasing our pay for our staff. That's where my motion comes from and then the rest of the board can decide from that point. I think if Athletic Committee has proposed this and it's gone through the coaches and they feel this is fair I think we should at least have the board be able to take a look at it.

King: I don't disagree, I just want to know if it's the appropriate time to look at with the other things that Ms. Boston mentioned.

Boston: I think we've got some fish to fry before we put this before the whole board.

Harris: In my graphic eye, and in my mind, as a bulletin board for budget season and by bringing it tonight for you all to have and go ahead and start thinking about gathering feedback from. And, in my graphic, it goes on the bulletin board to come back later in budget season and then to the full board. Just kind of my thoughts for your FYI.

Boston: It may be that we need to prioritize. You know we've got this much money and we've got these individuals that are asking, these individuals that need, and it may be a need versus a want. I think looking at it, putting it on the bulletin board is an excellent idea.

Hale: I agree with Ms. Boston about putting it on the bulletin board and let's look at it but let's not make a decision. I'm sitting on that committee and I know they want to be added and I can see where adding to longevity-people have coached for years and years and years and never received a raise but also I see the idea that we need bus drivers, we need to up the scale of our substitute teachers, cafeteria workers. Those kinds of people that are getting the kinds of raises that certified people are. Just for us to look at and see-I want to give everybody a raise, but we only have so much money to go around.

Boston: And we don't know what that money is going to do. If we get money on per student, that's no different than what we're doing now. But they are going to throw in that performance and that's really going to hurt us. It could decrease our BEP money substantially at the end of day. We have to bear that in mind.

Karge: But putting it in front of our board, is just putting it in front of our board.

King: So, would it be appropriate to postpone it with the other things we are considering in Salary too?

Karge: No one seconded my motion, so my motion is dead. However you want to roll it.

Boston: I'll make a motion to table until we get all the requests in and all of the items in that we need to consider in the budget season.

King: That way we can look at all of them at the same time and figure out priorities and what we want to do with them. Cause there may be others coming, I don't know.

Boston: There's others coming I'm sure.

King: I'm sure, there usually should be. So, with that motion to table until we see the other things-is that your motion?

Boston: That's my motion.

King: Do we have a second?

Hale: Second.

King: Ok, motion and a second. Any further discussion? All in favor say aye.

King/Boston/Hale: Aye.

King: Opposed?

Karge: Nay.

King: The ayes have it. Now, is there a recommendation from the Salary Study Committee yet?

Maxwell: This was just to bring to your all's attention that the Salary Study Committee was going to recommend to the school board that we pursue a non-certified salary study and I think this is something several of you have suggested and asked for in the past. As well all know, our hourly positions are getting harder and harder to staff. We just wanted to make the budget committee aware that is something that will come to the full board this evening, hopefully.

King: Thank you Dr. Maxwell.

VOICE VOTE: Boston (mover-yes)
Hale (seconder-yes)
3 Ayes
1 Nay

MOTION: Carried 3 to 1

6. ESSER Budget

Mr. King introduced the next item being the ESSER Budget.

King: Ms. Harris you want to take that ball and run with it?

Harris: Sure, sure. We have received word that all the districts in the state, ESSER 3 budget has been approved by the state. We said we would come back here to the Budget Committee to discuss that. What we have basically, is the exact same budget that you all saw before. We've one revision to that. On the capital projects page. We've changed our process. You have the E PLAN version as it was submitted, no changes, for your reference. The 3-column format is the next attachment, 6A and that's a new federal budget format that we're going to print all federal budgets in. You can see here that there are no changes from the last time until you get to page 4 where it's highlighted in yellow. You'll remember here we had line 707, I believe it was, was the HVAC portion of ESSER 3. We have removed that amount. We learned in September that we would need to have an architectural/engineering separate line for those fees. So, we took that \$750,000 that was budgeted there and popped it up in that engineering/architecture fees. That's the only changes to the budget.

Karge: We talked about that in the ESSER Committee. The numbers wouldn't change, it was just the line number and definition changed.

Harris: Correct and thank you for bringing that up. The ESSER Committee reviewed this and made the recommendation to send it here to Budget.

Karge: I move to approve as submitted.

King: Second?

Hale: Second.

King: Ok, motion to approve as submitted is made and seconded. Discussion. I've got a question. In the committee, the discussion was pending details? The line 707 was deleted and changed to

Karge: The 304. Like I said, the numbers didn't change.

King: That's the change?

Karge: Yeah, it's just where we had to call it.

King: I have one other question. On these estimations for replacing and repairing systems that we have, is there anything in the gymnasium that's included with that? Like a major ventilation system to draw air out?

Harris: We'll be removing all HVAC, at least for now, from ESSER 3. ESSER 2, I believe it's the one for \$4 million, we are in excellent partnership with TVA. Energy efficient school initiative came in and did an audit of our schools. We will be working with our HVAC experts in maintenance department. Those recommendations, we don't have them yet. I know in our recommendations there is some gym work involved.

Kington: You're saying fans, all of our gyms have ventilation fans in them. We do not have air conditioning in our elementary schools except for Crab Orchard. Is that what you're asking Mr. King?

King: That's part of it.

Kington: You want air conditions in the gyms?

King: No, I'm looking for total ventilation. As I go to different gyms, they are shut down.

Kington: And those are sometimes controlled by the school staff also. We just replaced the one at Stone Elementary 2 years ago and we replaced the one at Pleasant Hill this year.

King: Ok, that's what I needed to know.

Kington: It's just the fans though, it's not HVAC.

King: Right, that's what I'm talking about. Drawing air out. Anybody else have any questions or discussions? If not, we'll vote. Those in favor say aye.

Karge/Hale/King: Aye.

King: Those opposed?

Boston: No.

King: The ayes have it.

VOICE VOTE: Karge (mover-yes)
Hale (seconder-yes)
3 Ayes
1 Nay

MOTION: Carried 3 to 1

7. Blue Angel Jet Discussion.

King introduced the item.

King: Now then, number 7, Blue Angel discussion. Is there any discussion about that?

Boston: I would just like to... I don't know that Anita was here. Are you familiar with the Blue Angel Jet issues?

Hale: Oh, I read about it. But I wasn't at the meeting.

Boston: Ok, at the meeting, I made a motion and it passed to bring it to the Budget Committee, to find the money to maintain this jet. It seems we've got an outpour of people in support. Those donations are going to come in a little bit here, a little bit there. We want to make sure that this is done. This is a 42-year old icon. It's a mascot, I think is what it was called. It needs to stay with us. Greg Wood has assured us that it's not going anywhere. Fortunately for us, he's very community, very spirited minded. He's working feverishly with Jon Hall and Colonel Trey Meadows in order to maintain this jet. I think as a school district we need to step up to the plate and show that we support our children, we want to give them something to be proud of and in the small scheme of things, I don't think \$8-10 thousand dollars is a lot to ask. I would like to make a motion that we take \$8-10 thousand dollars out of general fund, out of maintenance, wherever, I think you said we had some software that wasn't ready to buy yet and we may have some extra money there. Put it toward the maintenance of this jet.

King: Just one time, or?

Boston: No, just this one time, I mean I'm not maintaining it forever. We'll address it as we need to. But that's what the fund that they have started is to maintain these aircraft as the city as contracted to do. I think we need to do our part. Yes, it's just to bring this particular jet up to their standards. If we need to re-visit it in a couple of years, then we can do that. I don't have problem with that at all.

King: Question is where does it come from, does it go as a donation to a cause in the city, or what?

Harris: Good questions. I will say, I've worked closely with Mr. Hall and the community outpouring and support, and not only our community but the military community has just been amazing. It's priceless to get that people excited and all for it. I can look for some savings to help with that. From my understanding, I think they are on an excellent trajectory for the donation of materials and of money. They've got a good plan. They have an eagle scout on board that's making the campaign part of his project. I think we're in good shape as far as that's going. It's been wonderful to see that community outpouring.

Boston: And I want to be part of that community. So far, this district has not been part of that community and I think we certainly can be a part of that community and I'd like for our kids, the staff and the community to know that this board wants to participate and wants to add to that. We're not going to be dependent upon the community to agree to do something that we agreed to do 42 years ago. I'm still going to stick with...I think Jon Hall told me \$8000 dollars and pull it from the general fund at this point. Everything that we don't spend, in the end, goes back into the general fund anyway. That would be my motion.

Karge: Question, I think it's great. My only question was-my understanding was this was the city's responsibility. What is the city doing and are we going to match what the city is doing, are we just going to say we're not going to worry about the city, we're just going to start our own fund? Looking in the future, I think that needs to be sort of clear. I have no problem putting money to the Blue Angel, I think that's really important. But we're also talking about-we don't want to allocate money to our staff, because we're not sure where that money is coming from. I'm kind of...

Boston: Well, reoccurring money...

Karge: I understand that, I know how the money works. I'm just saying it's making me wonder because I want to know that city piece as well. My understanding was that this was the city inherited that contract and we need to be aware of what they are doing too.

Boston: My understanding was there was a gentlemen's agreement 42 years ago. Because the Department of Defense would not contract with the Board of Education. So, the city stepped up to the plate and said look, we'll contract, y'all maintain it. There's nothing in writing, that's just how the story goes. A gentlemen's agreement is a gentlemen's agreement.

Karge: Well, we need to get something in writing.

Boston: We can contract with the City, but the Department of Defense won't contract with us.

Karge: That's fine, but I think we need to get the city involved cause if they are the ones that made the original agreement with the Department of Defense, I think they have to be a part of that discussion. I have no problem with your motion, and I have no problem voting for it, I'm just saying I think we really need to get the City involved and find out where they are on this.

Boston: Earl? Can you talk to Greg and see if that's something we need to do so that this doesn't come up again? The city has the contract, but we can contract with the city that we will maintain it.

Patton: I would imagine, well I say I would imagine, it would difficult to put a contract together between us and the city. I think the history you gave is accurate from the research that I have done.

Boston: Me too.

Patton: At the time, and I don't know what the Department of Defense's position is at this point, but I know when they entered into the agreement 42 years ago, for some reason they weren't directly allowed to contract with the system. They had to do it with a municipality. Essentially, what the city did, was substitute our obligation with its own obligation. We can enter into an agreement with the city if that's what the board wants to do to essentially take that obligation back in an indirect way. I guess what I'm hearing might be the desire of the board.

Boston: If you leave our jet alone, we'll maintain it.

Patton: Yeah.

Boston: I think with the contract, as how it's read, the City has the option to say hey boys come and get it. If it's not being maintained, come and get it, they have that option. But if we contract with the city and say we'll maintain it to their standards, if you'll just keep the contract going. I don't think that's a problem for the city. From the individuals that I've spoken with, I think that would be most appreciated.

Hale: I agree. I think it's a wonderful icon. I think several years ago Ms. Graham had done something with the other jet, Ms. Nettie. There was a lot of outpouring of help, so we definitely need to keep the Blue Angel. That's iconic. Not every school has a Navy jet outside their school yard. That's very special.

King: CCHS had the graduate Curt Watson, who flew the Blue Angels. I think there was some work there too to get that cause Ms. Nettie started it. That's an Air Force jet.

Boston: They are pretty serious about their...who would have thought they would have come back and said oh by the way, y'all have really let this go down and it's not being maintained.

King: Which when they give us static display for use, someone has to agree to maintain it to their standards. That's where that's at.

Boston: And if you break this contract that's exactly what it says.

King: So, when they give Ms. Nettie, they had to paint it black like it was, not how they wanted it to be.

Boston: I think it's a must and the (inaudible) needs to do their part.

Hale: I agree

King: So, who has the contract with Ms. Nettie, the school system or the City?

Patton: The City.

King: So, they've got both.

Patton: Oh now...

Boston: Ms. Nettie, I don't know.

Inman: Ms. Nettie, the way I remember it was done through the city as well.

Patton: That's a fair question. I've not looked at the contract for that specific jet at this point and time. But that is something we should probably look at because if we're looking at doing something for one, probably need to be looking at the other one as well.

Inman: Whenever we were going through-we were there when they were fixing up Ms. Nettie and brought her back, that was my understating, was the Air Force had contracted with the city.

Karge: I would be willing to second your motion if you would be willing to amend it to include that we clear up the contract issue.

Boston: I'll amend my motion to have our legal counsel look into contracting with the city to maintain these things. These jets, these aircraft.

Karge: I'll second that motion.

King: Other questions or discussion?

Hale: I think the board does need to get involved.

Karge: But that protects us if we have that contract. It protects the jet too.

King: We'll vote. All in favor?

King/Karge/Hale/Boston: Aye

King: Any opposed? It's unanimous. Mr. Patton, you got your marching orders on that?

Patton: I do, I'm typing it in right now.

King: Thank you. Are there any other discussions?

8. Adjournment

King: Hearing none, I will entertain adjournment of this meeting.

Karge: Move to adjourn.

King: Second?

Boston: Second.

King: This meeting is adjourned.

VOICE VOTE: Karge (mover-yes)
Boston (seconder-yes)
All Ayes

MOTION: Carried Unanimously
(The meeting was adjourned at the approximate hour of 5:09 pm)

Dr. Ina Maxwell
Director of Schools

Mr. Chris King
Chairman of the Budget Committee

Diane McCartney
Executive Assistant for the Director of Schools and BOE