

Minutes (approved)
Budget Work Sessions
May 6, 2010

Chairperson Courtney Watson called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. on May 6, 2010, in the C. Vernon Gray Room, 8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, MD.

Members Present: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa (arrived 8:45 a.m.) and Courtney Watson.

The Council discussed proposed budgets with department representatives, as follows. Ray Wacks, Budget Director, participated in the discussion of all departments.

Board of Education: Sydney Cousin, staff and Board Members (Ellen Giles, Janet Siddiqui, Frank Aquino, Larry Cohen, Alan Dyer and Sandra French)

Dr. Cousin provided a summary sheet. The preliminary State revenue estimate increased to \$55,700. An increase in anticipated State capital funding (from \$1.8 million to \$3.5 million) will be added to Bollman Bridge ES. ARRA Restricted State Stabilization funds (\$5.8 million) will be moved to a restricted grant.

Capital:

Ken Roey provided a summary sheet. Triadelphia Ridge ES/Folly Quarter Sequence Batch Reactor replaced by Membrane Batch Reactor at savings of \$3.0 million. Hammond below estimate and funds shifted; Bollman Bridge phased; Bollman Bridge and Patuxent Valley to be master planned. Hammond/Centennial Dance Studios favorably bid (\$1.6 million for combined). Coordinated design for Centennial/Burley Manor and Parking Bus Route Traffic Light. Systemic/Maintenance Budget: reduction as compared to recent years; cosmetic items deferred but health and safety unaffected. There was a discussion of new schools and school planning in the Route 1 corridor as well as a discussion of the standard for site selection. The Board relies heavily on the annual feasibility study.

Operating:

Ray Brown and staff responded to inquiries in all categories. HCPSS' Administration budget is the lowest in the State based on enrollment. Linda Wise reported on the successes of the intern program in the Mid-Level Administration Category. There was also a discussion of the Cultural Proficiency and Student Engagement Initiatives. Mr. Roey summarized utilities savings and other efficiencies in the Plant Operations Category. He also described the successes of the LEAN program in a number of areas: Community Use of Facilities, HVAC, Transportation Routing, and Computer and Vehicle Repairs. Other topics covered included Green School Initiatives, and On-Line Employment Applications. In the Fixed Charge Category, health and retirement have experienced increases. Finally, there was a review of positions and enrollments. There are no new positions and enrollment is approaching 50,000.

The meeting was recessed at 10:37 a.m.

Chairperson Watson reconvened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Library: Valerie Gross, Ann Gilligan and Board Chair Leonora Hoenes

Capital:

Ms. Gross indicated that the budget for the Miller library will be amended to reflect a grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the State. There was a discussion of the engineer's estimate and timetable for the bids for the Miller library. There was also a general discussion of future library priorities.

Operating:

Ms. Gross indicated that the Library achieved level funding via various short term cuts, including in the areas of conferences and books and materials. The copier contract was rebid at a savings of \$20,000. The Library will participate in the furlough by closing on four days spaced through the year around holiday weekends.

Office of Law: Margaret Ann Nolan

Operating:

The budget is level funded. A vacant position has been filled and a part-time vacancy remains.

The meeting was recessed at 1:34 p.m.

Chairperson Watson reconvened the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Howard Community College: Kate Hetherington, Lynn Coleman

Capital:

Ms. Hetherington indicated that the College priorities are the parking garage and the Health Sciences Building.

Operating

Ms. Hetherington stated that this second year for level funding presents a challenge as the College continues to grow. The College has implemented job freezes, hired on a temporary basis, cut travel and renegotiated contracts. After two years without an increase, the tuition will rise \$2.00 per credit to \$116.00. The cost is near the top for the State, but unlike other institutions, some capital expenses are included. Additionally, part of the operating expenses goes to offset tuition for needy students. There was a discussion of the impact of the sale of Belmont. There was also a discussion of the impending Mid-Atlantic States accreditation process and the ratio of adjuncts to full-time faculty. Following a year without an increase, employees will receive raises of 1.5%. Finally, the College has initiated direct financial aid lending guaranteed by the Federal government.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.