



BONNEY LAKE & SUMNER COURIER-HERALD

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

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Q&A

Question of the Week:

Do you feel the state Legislature's budget will seriously effect local school districts?

- Yes
- No

The results will appear in the next issue.

BY CHAZ HOLMES
The Courier-Herald

Summer School District board members gathered for a special meeting April 29, revising their 2009-10 budget following the Washington State Legislature's final budget passed April 26.

A silver lining in the cloud of reduced state funding is there are no plans for a reduction in force, meaning teaching positions are safe.

Debbie Campbell, business services executive director, and Deb Barlow, human resources executive director, pre-

sented findings made by the budget subcommittee about where reductions in costs could be made.

Some reduction is occurring naturally through attrition, with 12 employees retiring, resigning or applying for full-year leave requests. Eleven temporary employees received letters in February stating their contracts would not be renewed.

Reductions in school funding from the Legislature come in a variety of areas, among them a suspension of the annual cost-of-living adjustment provided by Initiative 732 and a discontinuation of transportation fuel subsidy.

"We know we're going to get \$2.3 million less," said Ann

Cook, communications director.

Cook said the budget committee worked to make the cuts specific and Campbell said they were made "strategically and carefully" to avoid as many position cuts as possible.

"The reductions are strategic, they're thoughtful," Cook said.

Some suggestions included offsetting the loss of the fuel subsidy by providing one-way transportation to certain events, such as athletic activities.

At events affected by this transportation change, partici-

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No teachers cut under revised budget

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Budget

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pating students would get a ride home from a parent or guardian.

Cook said some assistant coaching positions may be eliminated but programs are not being reduced.

Certain practices, like the boys and girls cross country and golf teams, may be combined to save on facility and coaching costs.

Campbell said some school district employees were helpful by volunteering to reduce their benefits to cut costs.

Now, with the amount of state funding known, the district faces the task of determining its expendi-

tures Cook said the hope is the district's expenditures will be known by the regular board meeting May 13 so the board can make any needed cuts, followed by a complete budget in June and final budget adoption at the July board meeting.

"The difference between our revenue and expenditures will drive any reduction," Cook said.

A deadline of May 15 is set for the school district to notify anyone being affected by a potential layoff.

Budget information is available on the Web at summer.wednet.edu.

Reach Chaz Holmes at 360-802-8208 or cholmes@courierherald.com.

Reductions Presented on April 15

- District special education contribution: **\$135,000**
- Transportation fuel budget: **\$150,000**
- Expenditures at Swimming Pool; staff reduction of one full-time equivalent position: **\$63,000**
- I-728 professional development/building budget reductions: **\$152,039**
- Kindergarten and early-learning support: **\$110,600**
- Professional development training funds: **\$145,902**
- I-728 HS Intervention (staff absorbed): **\$150,784**
- VADIS contract \$13,000
- Building assessment coordinator stipends: **\$11,689**
- Reorganization of assignments: **\$356,763**
- Gifted coordinator .25 FTE (absorbed)
- Reduce BLHS counselor position by .40 FTE (leave)
- Eliminate SMS dean of students position 1.0 FTE (absorbed)
- Benefits specialist from HR 1.0 FTE (unfilled)
- Professional development administrator 1.0 FTE (unfilled)
- Reduce 12-month/hourly classified work year by 2 paid days (Winter Break)
- 10-month ASG taking work day reductions (non-student days)

Total: \$1,288,912