

Berkeley County School Board Budget Public Hearing

June 27, 2017 - 5:30 pm

Observer: Mev McIntosh

Present: Ramsey, Kelly, Wofford, Barrow, Spann, Wright (Condor arrived late)

Absent: McQuillin, Lee

Full video of public hearing for proposed budget is below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhcAIY2xfSw>

Link for agenda is below:

<http://www.boarddocs.com/sc/berkeley/Board.nsf/Public>

Slide show for presentation is available in link below:

[http://www.boarddocs.com/sc/berkeley/Board.nsf/files/ANPNZX5F00DE/\\$file/FINAL%20FY1718%20General%20Fund%20Budget%20Second%20Reading%20for%20062717.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/sc/berkeley/Board.nsf/files/ANPNZX5F00DE/$file/FINAL%20FY1718%20General%20Fund%20Budget%20Second%20Reading%20for%20062717.pdf)

Meeting Summary

Jacque Carlen of Finance presented the second reading of the 2017-18 General Fund Budget. She pointed out that no millage increase to property tax was needed to craft this budget. *Millage rate is currently 163.8.*

Total funding requests - \$19.3M; total school-level requests - \$3.5M; total district-level requests - \$3.2M

As board members reviewed their documents provided by Carlen and Finance Department, Board Chair Wofford inquired about \$190K listed in the "other" category. Carlen explained this is a "consistent expenditure" that included expenses for the board, such as travel to conferences, memberships for SCSBA, etc. Wofford asked if this could be pared down more; she thought these funds could be better used to fund a bus, for example. However, it appeared from Carlen's responses that these funds were more specific to needs of the board.

Spann asked for the total budget amount. *This information is also provided in the packets each board member receives.* Carlen referred him to the page and its figure - \$278,324,914.

Barrow inquired about the "Teacher Mentoring Initiative" line item listed under district-level requests for \$160K. Interim superintendent Jackson noted that these are allocated funds and that "details are in the process of being worked out." *(Note: It should be noted that in the district office position cuts approved by the board, three full-release mentors at the district level were cut. Harding, Parker, and Associates (firm hired by school board for district office restructuring and superintendent search) made these and other restructuring recommendations to the board.)*

The board stated it will save \$1M by cutting 12-14 positions at the district office. See news article below:

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/berkeley-school-district-office-reorganization-will-eliminate-positions-save-district/article_cb5e1912-402c-11e7-b16d-efeb717b0140.html

A recent article clarifies the cut positions. See below:

http://www.berkeleyind.com/news/eight-positions-cut-for-m-savings-at-school-district/article_dad2f5e0-5d99-11e7-b7fa-bbab2648f1d8.html

The organizational chart has not been made public as of July 1, 2017.