

Budget Feedback Meeting Minutes

Sarah Smith Elementary

Date: 2.13.25

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Sarah Smith IC media center

I. Call to order: 3:00

II. Roll Call

Role	Name <i>(or Vacant)</i>	Present or Absent
Principal	Dwight Hutson	Present
Parent/Guardian	Elizabeth Zielinski	Present
Parent/Guardian	Cimona Hinton Dirickson	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ann Mintman	Present
Instructional Staff	Prissy Stewart	Present
Instructional Staff	Karla Lamar	Present
Instructional Staff	Jennifer Moore	Present
Community Member	Laquisha Smith	Present
Community Member	Ben Miller	Present
Swing Seat	Andrea Almario	Present

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

A. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: [Cimona Hinton Dirickson](#); Seconded by: [Ann Mintman](#)

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

B. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion made by: [Andrea Almario](#); Seconded by: [Cimona Hinton Dirickson](#)

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

C. **Approval of the Draft Budget** *(after presentation and discussion):*

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Motion made by: [Andrea Almario](#); Seconded by: [Prissy Stewart](#)

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: none

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

A. Budget Development Presentation:

- i. Mr. Hutson walked the GO team through the budget proposal for 25-26 school year showing the allocated budget with how Mr. Hutson has drafted the budget to fit the needs of the school.
- ii. Grade-Level Staffing: Kindergarten through second grade will maintain six teachers per grade level. Third grade will decrease to six teachers, with 0.5 of a position allocated to ESOL. Both fourth and fifth grades will have six teachers per grade level.
- iii. Summary of changes includes minimal changes to staffing, everyone who wants to come back can.
- iv. This discussion covered allocations for media supplies, dues and fees, substitute teachers, staff salaries, and special programs.
- v. The school will have additional staffing, including a 0.5 reading teacher, two teachers each for art, music, PE, and world languages. Three gifted teachers are currently allocated. A social-emotional learning (SEL) teacher will be funded by reallocating a counselor position.

B. Discussion of Budget Presentation

- i. The discussion turned to allocation for reading support at the school, weighing the need for additional reading intervention staff against financial constraints. With the high priority of reading achievement, the team is considering whether it's impactful to rely on existing staff, such as ESOL and EIP teachers, to provide reading support within their available capacity, rather than finding funds for an additional dedicated reading staff.
- ii. There is concern about balancing resources between struggling students and those who need enrichment, especially within budget constraints. The conversation also touched on staffing decisions, including the need for additional reading support and the role of gifted teachers, while considering the impact on overall scheduling and classroom instruction.
- iii. The discussion focused on budget allocations, departmentalization for grades 3-5, and aligning proposed changes with strategic goals. Concerns were raised about large class sizes with support for maintaining small

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class sizes, shared staff positions, and ensuring funding directly supports student growth in math and reading.

- iv. The draft budget was approved with the understanding that adjustments may follow, after further review with district leadership.

V. Announcements

- A. GO Team elections coming up
- B. Go team members, get your training done before next meeting

VI. Public Comments:

- A. Kat Gaudin

VII. Adjournment:

Motion made by: Jennifer Moore ; Seconded by: [Karla Lamar](#)

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 4:18

Minutes Taken By: [Ann Mintman](#)

Position: Secretary

Date Approved: 3.13.25