

PESPA/Pinellas County Schools
Minutes
July 10, 24
Admin Building, Largo

Present: Paula Texel, Laurie Dart, Ken Afienko, Gary Jeppesen, Dave Richmond, Dan Churchill, Calvin Gordon, Dena Collins

1:03 pm

Introductions made by the entire bargaining team. Mr. Jeppesen provided an overview of the budget. He discussed the decrease in student enrollment and the amount of money that flows through the district budget because of family empowerment scholarship dollars that are provided to homeschool and private school students. Many of these dollars are going to families that have not enrolled their students in public or charter schools previously.

There was an increase in categorical funding this year, however, this must be spent on specific areas. Our fund balance remains at the required board policy approved percentage. Employee Well-Being and Satisfaction Committee met yesterday, and we have confirmed that \$8.1 million of available funding will go towards increases in health care insurance provided by the school board. Mr. Jeppesen provides additional information as related to raises over time in comparison to the CPI (consumer price index) percentages. Ms. Texel pointed out that our total student enrollment projected for the 24-25 school year is down from 79,873 to 77,758. Our funding is provided by number of students and this decrease in students has resulted in cuts across the board in all divisions.

Ken Afienko asks additional questions about the Family Empowerment Scholarship. Ms. Dart explains how dollars are now available from the state and share how these dollars flow through the district to be used for private school and home school students.

Dan Churchill asks a question about the employee childcare program and if it was a revenue builder for the district. Ms. Texel responds that the program is cost neutral. There are no state funds that are provided for this program.

Officer Churchill spoke on behalf of FOP. He thanked the group for helping with the compression from last year. The goal each year going forward is to move one level on the pay scale plus add a percentage increase. The com center would like to revisit their pay grade and ask for it to be reclassified to a D12. This would be one pay grade, approximately 10% and to also move a level. The communications team feels this would put them more in line with their current responsibilities. Officer Churchill provided a packet of information to the bargaining group. FOP would like to move away from any wage compression. The group feels that they were treated well last year and are leaving it to the district come back with a percentage to add to their salary schedule.

Laurie Dart shares that moving a level is a 3.25% increase in pay. The district has \$12 million dollars of available for salary increases and increases in healthcare. The school board will be picking up 80% of the increase in healthcare costs, which is approximately \$9. The district bargaining team must bargain for all groups. Paula shares with Officer Churchill the information from EWBS on health care and the recommendation that will be made for the bargaining teams.

Mr. Afienko asks if the board is interested in keeping everyone at the same percentage. He wanted to know why this group is lumped in with the other bargaining units. Paula shares we did something different for your group last year, and we do look at all employees and the percentage being received. We value all employees and look at each group with the same value. Mr. Afienko shared he does not want the union he represents to be held hostage to other unions.

Officer Churchill wanted some additional language to be considered, he asks for the OPS investigator to be considered a different paygrade and level. The position has been vacant and a police officer has been occupying this position. Ms. Texel informed the group that Chief Williams could make a request to look at the staffing model. Officer Churchill also asked for more consideration and opportunities for the current school police to be considered first for sporting event coverage resulting in additional overtime. The school officers would like to have the first opportunity for overtime at sporting events, not necessarily the county officers. He requested a different rate of pay for school police currently on a 10-month contract working summer bridge to receive extra pay in the summer. When 12-month school police work night events such as night school positions, pay is at time and half. The 10-month officers do not have the same opportunity as they are working 20 hours a week at summer bridge. The officers are trying to find a way to pay the 10-month employees more in the summer than their regular rate.

Would like to schedule a next meeting, after July 18. Mr. Afienko has provided the group the permission to negotiate without him.

Next meeting scheduled for August 7 at 1pm in Room 134/135 (across from Cafeteria).

Meeting ends at 2:14 pm