

## **TSCC Meeting Minutes Approved June 15, 2020**

Via Telephone conference call

Commissioners Barringer, Ofsink, Norton, and Quiroz were present as were Executive Director Craig Gibons, Budget Analyst Tunie Betschart all via telephone conference call.

Absent: Commissioner Mark Wubbold

Chair Barringer convened the TSCC Regular Meeting at 12:32.

The minutes for June 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting and Metro Public Hearing and Urban Flood Safety & Water Control District Public Hearing were approved subject to corrections sent previously.

Debrief on Hearings previously held:

**City of Portland Hearing** was discussed at length. With the Mayor unable to attend Commissioner Hardesty dominated the hearing. Had the Mayor been at the hearing other topics would have been covered. Commissioner Fritz did ensure that the scripted answers were read in order to be on record during the hearing.

Disappointment in the answers given at the **County Library Hearing** were expressed. The balance in the capital fund, the district coming close to reaching their levy limit and the answer given to the follow-up question about the November Bond measure and changing the design were all subjects of concern to the commissioners. Library staff deployment was also discussed. This is accomplished using the Library tax dollars. Since this is not a restricted revenue stream it appears that this is discretionary spending. Other districts are forced to lay off or use furlough days. The library is not doing this but using the employees in other areas.

The **Multnomah County's Hearing** went well. Good answers. Elected officials participated. They were scripted but follow-up was good.

**Metro** was more scripted at the elected level than it has been in the past. There was little engagement with the elected officials. Not all participated. They had staff answer most of the questions. The hearing was not as good as it has been in the past.

The **Port of Portland** was better than normal, mainly due to the elimination of the time-consuming PowerPoint presentation. It was great to have comments from Council President. This was the first time a Council President has given a portion of the introduction to the budget.

**Prosper Portland** was status quo.

Zoom meetings as a vehicle for public hearings was discussed. In the future this may be used in conjunction with face-to-face hearings.

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All budgets being so tentative and the probability of reductions to budgets was discussed. It was determined supplemental budgets are not required when reducing the budgets since the criteria is expenditures when determining the 10% change. Monitoring the districts budgets in the upcoming year was discussed. After considerable discussion, it was determined that TSCC should ask for a copy of their revised budget no later than December 31.

**Budget Review:**

The conversation moved to the Corbett School District's 2020-21 Approved Budget Review.

Following are some points of interest that were discussed:

- Distract will change to a Charter school beginning July 2021
- The enrollment cap of 1,300 (ADMr) was explained.
- Enrollment cap is a board policy due to the politics at Corbett.
- The Superintendent's budget message says they will be in crisis in FY22. They do not have the ability to put away money for that crisis at this time
- The chart on page 2 showing the RMV was questioned. Mr. Gibons explored and found this was a typo. He will make the change on the chart.
- Page 4 in Personnel Service section there is a reduction in the health care rates. Mr. Gibons explained that it is a reduction in the anticipated increase, from a 10% increase to a 6% increase.
- Page 5 intergovernmental revenue was deliberated. Mr. Gibons explained the lag in student count..
- The budget balancing measures that are mentioned in the budget have not been implemented as they have to negotiate furloughs and COLAs. They are on very thin ice with this budget. They do not have total control over many of the expenditures they are hoping to implement.
- They are balancing their budget with no COLAs for any employees, with some accounting corrections, with anticipation that the health insurance rates will not be as much as they originally anticipated, and maintaining their revenue, based on the number of students in last year's enrollment statistics.
- The use of the Student Success Act revenue was considered. There is \$175,000 in the Student Investment Act and the district will use a portion of this for the Debt Service for the property purchased. There is concern if the Student Investment Act is adjusted down and the district has committed those dollars to debt service, the debt service cannot be reduced. Potentially this will impact the General Fund.

The language used in the Certification Letter was pondered. The language "to determine the adequacy of estimates necessary to support efficient and economical administration of the District" raised concerns because, by the districts own admission, the estimate are unsustainable. If the district is saying this should the Certification Letter say that they are adequate? After some discussion it was decided

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to remove that wording and add a new paragraph that states “Due to the uncertainty of state education funding (or in some cases just funding sources) we request the district to report its revised FY21 budget to the Commission no later than December 31, 2020”. This will be used in all the remaining districts certification letters. This will help in the evaluation process during the FY 22 budget season.

*Commissioner Quiroz moved to certify that the commissioners had no recommendations or objections with regard to the Corbett School District’s 2020-21 Approved Budget or the budget process. Commissioner Ofsink seconded the motion which carried with a unanimous vote.*

The suggestion was made that when Mr. Gibons gives an overview of the district’s budget and budget process, that he state “the budget conforms to Local Budget Law but the certification letter does say TSCC does want to hear about the upcoming changes the district will more than likely have to make in the upcoming year” drawing attention to the new paragraph.


The hearing and meeting schedule was discussed.

- Mt. Hood Community College’s Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.
- The June 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting will be held at 12:00 noon.
- Multnomah County’s Public Hearing will be held June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00
- Portland Public School District’s Public Hearing will be held June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00

There was some discussion on about the Multnomah County Hearing scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00. Mr. Gibons received some information from them this morning. They will be in budget meetings all week on the County’s role in the reopening process. They have about \$90 million in budget changes planned as of last week to complete the procedures necessary to reopen. The TSCC Commission meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> will review the information about this and Mr. Gibons will provide a couple questions to ask at the hearing. He will also have a revised opening statement for the hearing and a revised certification letter for Multnomah County.

Chair Barringer closed the meeting at about 2:00 p.m.

[Commission approved minutes at July 22 meeting following inclusion of Commissioner Norton edits.](#)



[Craig Gibons](#)