

Budget and financial info highlight school meeting

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Second-quarter financials and a 2013-14 budget timeline for Holyoke School District Re-1J were the main topics of a short meeting of the Holyoke Board of Education Tuesday, Feb. 5.

After reviewing the second-quarter reports, Superintendent Bret Miles indicated the district is in good position with expenditures at this point midway through the budget year and they're tracking with the budget.

While revenues are coming in a bit slower than last year, Miles said they still believe they'll receive the revenue projected. This impacts cash balances but is not likely to impact the projected end-of-year position.

The percentage of budget available is under 50 percent, but Miles pointed out that capital projects and mill levy override accounts are both nearly spent for the year.

The cash position looks different from a year ago. To begin with, the year started with about \$200,000 less. With some revenues coming in later and some larger expenditures, the cash balance is expected to drop below \$1 million for a month or two, said Miles.

However, it should come back up as expected to be near \$1.4 million at the end of the year as was projected in the budget. Miles said they'll continue to monitor this.

A budget timeline for work on the 2013-14 budget was introduced last week, with approval to be on the next meeting's agenda.

The budget development timeline presents a list of dates and activities associated with building the budget. It not only organizes the work of the board but is also a communication tool so that staff can find out when major decisions will be made and how they can have input into the process.

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Senate Bill 191 debriefed

Board members debriefed their Jan. 28 training in Haxtun on educator effectiveness.

Senate Bill 191, the educator effectiveness law, requires that each school district adopt evaluation policy and use an evaluation instrument which meets the requirements of the law.

Linda Barker from the Colorado Education Association and Michelle Murphy of Colorado Associations of School Boards conducted the recent training.

Board members said they enjoyed the presentation from Wray teachers who were part of the pilot project and commented on the many positive aspects of the new process.

Other business

In other business Feb. 5, the Re-1J board:

—rescheduled the Feb. 19 board meeting to Monday, Feb. 25.

—hired Karla Cruz as an ESL aide at Holyoke JR/SR High.

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—held a one-hour executive session at the close of the meeting with Miles for principals' evaluations.

—tentatively chose the March 6 date for participating in the “Regional Days at the Capitol” lobbying effort hosted by the Colorado Association of School Boards' advocacy team.

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