

**DRAFT -SALMON BAY Building Leadership Team (BLT) Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday March 4, 2015 - Principal's Office

**Agenda: Minutes, Preliminary Discussion: Salaried Allocations and Specialist for 2015/2016 Budget**

**In attendance:**

Administrator: Neil Gerrans  
IA Rep: Nancy Gruber  
Specialist Rep: Markos Weiss  
2/3-Team: Dave Middleton  
6<sup>th</sup> Team: Katie Hayes \*  
Cascades (7/8<sup>th</sup>): Jeff Callahan  
Parent Rep: Jeannie Cziesla/absent

Office Rep: Caitlin Racey  
Library: Linda Illman  
K/1 Team: Amy Gross  
4/5 Team: Brian Williamson  
Olympics (7/8<sup>th</sup>): Connie Gold  
Parent Rep: AJ Silva/absent  
\*Acting Chairperson

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**Meeting called to order 3:40pm.**

**1) Minutes:** 2/24/15 are approved for distribution and posting.

**2) Preliminary Budget Comments:**

Neil shared a preliminary budget handout. He indicated that budget allocations represented are pretty reliable, with the exception of special education numbers, which have not been set yet. Eventually, there will most likely be one more resource room and one higher needs program added when true student assignment numbers come in.

Generally, 2015/16 budget allocations are similar to 2014/15, but the librarian will be 1.0 and the additional certificated core teacher will be .5. Last year those allocations were switched. Overall, the budget between last year and this year is net neutral.

**3) Salaried Position Allocations Discussion:**

While most of our salaried core curriculum positions are included in our general school funding from the school district, there are a few positions that are not finalized and will be discussed today:

**.6 Reading Specialist** – Undeniably, we need/want this position at our school and could possibly use the District funded .5 certificated core allocation (listed above) for this position, but we will want to use those funds strategically for our most expensive positions. (LAP money can be used for this position and Vol. Coordinators, but if we want to extend this position to 1.0 it would cost an additional \$37,000.) Whatever funds we use, we will fund this position.

**Other Specialists** - *Currently, we have 4.5 FTE allocations. Presently, 2.0 of those positions are used for PE, the remaining 2.5 will be allocated to art, drama, and music. To keep the same art/drama/music staffing we have this year, we will need more than that.*

**Proposed Art, Drama, and Music: 3.0 Positions:** 1.0 FTE drama, 1.0 FTE art, and then combine our current music program allocations (.9 and .3) and add .1 to get a 1.0 music teacher. There are a number of ways this might be funded for next year, but it could

mean that we might be able to add a vocal music! These changes could have lots of positive effects in our master schedule options for 2015/16.

**Proposed PE: 2.0 positions:** Elementary PE would stay at 4 days/week. MS would continue to be 1 semester per student. The current middle school teaching load cap is 10 sections of 35 kids/section per year (5 each semester). Getting PE loads aligned properly might mean that we need to go back to Mr. G. teaching all elementary PE and Mr. T teaching all MS PE classes. If we use this model, we would wind up .5 above our current District allocation. We are allowed to bring a case to the District to ask for .5 in additional funding from them to make our master schedule work. It is possible that the District would give us the additional .5 FTE...but maybe not.

**Proposed Counseling 1.8 FTE:** In the current 2015/16 allocation, we have 1.5 FTE counselors. This year we had 1.8 FTE, so we would like to bump that allocation back up by .3 to bring our counselors back up to this year's level.

#### **The Salaried Position Discussion Bottom Line:**

If we combine the .5 PE/Drama/Art/Music shortfall, and the .6 FTE Reading Specialist position we still need to fund, and the .3 FTE we need to boost our counseling back up to 1.8 FTE, it means we would have a 1.4 FTE total shortfall for next year. Beyond the .5 request we will make to the District, there are a number of ways we might be able to use our reserve and possible FOSB assistance to make it all work.

#### **4) BLT Member Questions:**

**Elementary stipend?** Every school gets \$2,000 as an elementary stipend to be used for special projects/responsibilities. Brian thought elementary stipend was rolled into BLT stipends. Stipends are a conversation that will be taken up at the next BLT budget meeting on Friday.

**Supplies?** Copiers are also expensive – approximately \$11,000-13,000/year . Some of the costs are covered by the District, but lots of the costs of machine maintenance/paper, etc. are covered by our school supply budget. Each year the District holds back \$20,000 from each school and keeps that money through the year to cover our supply/copier costs. The District keeps some/all of that money IF WE exceed our estimated supply spending. It's their guarantee against financial loss. If, however, we stick to our budget, we get the part we didn't spend back at the end of the year and it goes into our reserve funds. This helps build up our reserves from year to year, but is not money we can count on.

**Markos?** When will we make final decisions about which specialist positions will be funded? Neil replied that will come when we begin building schedules. This is just the beginning of our discussions: we will have several more BLT budget meetings, as well as FOSB and general staff input over the next 6 weeks, or so.

**Caitlin:** Will office staffing will stay the same for next year? Yes! The School District's GOLD BOOK indicated that office staffing would remain the same.

**SpEd Line Item?** is for special needs and digital support programs such as IXL, focus tools, ...actual expenses usually exceed what's allocated, so we try to use dollars provided by the School District before we use school dollars. There are rules around the use of SpEd funds, so we are thoughtful about our spending. Programs like **Brain Pop** come out of this line item, which benefit kids with SpEd needs, but are also useful to

general education students. It was noted that FOSB might be willing to fund some of these kinds of educational tech/digi needs.

**Nancy:** IA Camp/Other support brought up. If we are increasing our higher needs educational programs and the IA (parapro) support those programs need, we must build that kind of support into our budgeting. The group agreed.

**FOSB allocations to teachers/teams/etc.?** have gone up and down over the years, but we may try regrouping some of those funding categories to get the most use out of every dollar. When we ask FOSB for funding, we want to make sure the request is both feasible for and well received by the parent/guardian body. Neil is intending to create a first-stab set of ideas for the upcoming auction-funding request; we will tweak it at our next meeting. Once that conversation happens and we get a feasible/comfortable support amount that FOSB approves, then we can allocate the funds accordingly.

*Action Item: Neil will make up some FOSB possible funding request scenarios.*

**5) In Closing:** The group played with various funding options that would combine all our potential dollars (SPS, FOSB, Reserve) to start a 1<sup>st</sup> scenario budget. We will address the Fund-A-Need proposals at our next meeting.

*Action Item: Nancy to send out meeting norms and the proposed by-laws to all BLT members. The meeting norms were approved in September, but the proposed By-Laws have not yet been completed or approved.*

**6) VOTE: Are we in favor of putting a mitigation request into the District for .5. All yea!**

*Action Item: Neil will submit mitigation request for .5 FTE teacher in to the District.*

Submitted by Nancy Gruber