

Amendment meeting date: 10/6/2025

Attendees:

Nils Lofgren - Chair
Joe Daugirda- Co Chair
Elizabeth Hendrix
Amanda Wiscomb - Absent
Melissa Ruesch
Colleen Mitchell- Director

Recorded via Zoom

Budget Amendments and Allocation

The meeting finalized amendments to the **\$81,000 land trust budget**, reallocating funds based on evolving school needs to optimize resource use (00:00).

- **Colleen** proposed increasing the academic director's budget from **\$27,000 to \$32,000** to better support wages, freeing general budget money for curriculum needs.
- The math intervention budget was reduced from **\$9,000 to \$2,000**, releasing **\$7,000** to fund expanded professional development and other priorities.
- Professional development funding significantly rose from **\$9,000 to \$14,000**, reflecting a new multi-year training focus on the seven habits framework aimed at integrating learning deeply across staff and students.
- Additional investments included a **\$2,300** pilot for a writing program addressing state writing test gaps and increased funds for specialty teachers from **\$2,000 to \$2,700** to support extra teaching time and parent engagement events.

Professional Development Strategy and Implementation

The team committed to a long-term professional development plan emphasizing sustainable teacher growth and student impact (03:52).

- The **seven habits training** will roll out over four years, with increased funding allowing more staff participation and deeper learning integration.
- A new Core Knowledge evening event for parents and students will foster community involvement, funded through the amended budget to pay teachers for extra hours.
- The writing program pilot responds to gaps identified in the fifth-grade state writing assessment, aiming to boost writing proficiency systematically.

- Leadership views this approach as an investment in quality teaching, expecting improved student outcomes aligned with state goals.

Budget Utilization and State Compliance

The team addressed budget underspending from the prior school year and aligned amendments to meet state funding requirements (00:00).

- A leftover credit of **\$2,784** from the 2024-25 school year was noted, indicating previous underspending despite an approved **\$81,000** budget. To equal a new amount of **\$83,784.00**.
- The state prefers full use of allocated funds, so the team adjusted line items to fully allocate monies while minimizing unnecessary leftover balances.
- Colleen planned to revise goals and resubmit the amended budget to the state, particularly adding a writing goal under English language arts to justify new spending.
- The group decided to allocate remaining funds to academic director wages to avoid appearing under budget and to free up general funds elsewhere. Council agreed to increase Academic Director wage to **\$32,907.00**

Approval Process and Next Steps

The team quickly approved the proposed budget amendments and clarified submission steps (10:47).

- **Nils Lofgren** moved to approve the budget with the proposed amendments, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Next steps include drafting final documents, submitting the budget through the board, and then presenting it to the state for approval.
- The team agreed this process would maintain compliance and provide flexibility for evolving school priorities.
- This approval sets the stage for executing the expanded professional development and writing programs in the upcoming school year.

Action items

Colleen Mitchell

- Draft the final amended budget documents based on today's approved numbers and prepare for board submission and state resubmission (11:30)
- Amend state goals documentation to include writing program under Language Arts goals as part of professional development and intervention funding (07:00)