

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303
District Budget Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: June 7, 2011
Place: Bainbridge High School Library
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Superintendent Faith Chapel convened the meeting noting district budget decisions had been delayed waiting for the State Legislature to complete its work on a final budget. Additional reductions and changes were written into the state's final budget at the last minute such as the authorization for community colleges to charge Running Start students up to 10% tuition for participation in that program. It is unknown at this time, what the final budget solution will be related to the Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) program, which will apparently be determined by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Ms. Chapel thanked the DBAC members for their patience throughout the long and drawn out state budget process.

Ms. Chapel explained the meeting would focus on three areas of discussion: the impact on the district of the final state budget; implications for staffing, including classified staffing, and the Bainbridge Schools Foundation; and the timeline for the district's final budget development. An updated 2011-2012 General Fund Budget Gap estimate based on the latest information about the State's final budget was distributed to the group. It was noted the salary reductions included in the state's final budget has placed districts state-wide in a difficult position, making it necessary for them to open conversations with their employee associations. Ms. Chapel noted the state salary reductions were separate from the updated budget information contained in the General Fund budget gap estimate just distributed. Changes in the estimate related to the final state budget were most noticeable in the section "possible state/federal budget reductions for 2011-13." This section included the elimination of Gr. K-3 staffing enhancement (\$350K) and the expiration of Federal Stimulus for Special Education (\$385K), as well as a minor reduction in middle level Career Technical Education (\$2K). Related to the Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) program, the Legislature reduced funding by 15% and left the specifics of the reduction for each district to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The reduction would impact programs at Commodore Options (Eagle Harbor High School, Home School). Salary and benefit adjustments that includes such things as pension cost, experience step, insurance cost, and L&I/Unemployment increases is estimated at \$285K. Other adjustments include utilities, water & stormwater increases (\$175K), and curriculum (\$250K). The reductions in revenues and increased costs for 2011-2012 total \$2,004,000. Ms. Chapel announced the Bainbridge Schools Foundation renewed their pledge for 2011-2012 in the amount of \$575K – an increase of \$75K from previous years. Their generous support, coupled with additional revenue of local levy changes (\$600K), enrollment increase (2010/11) (\$250K), and athletic fee increases (Gr. 7-12) (\$15K) leaves a budget gap of \$564K for the 2011-2012. The preliminary budget gap for 2012-2013 is \$881K.

Ms. Chapel distributed copies of the Reduced Educational Program for 2011-12: Exhibits 1 & 2 memo that was presented to the Board of Directors at the May 5th special meeting. The memo delineates the certificated positions that were projected for reduction. It was noted that with reductions of \$600K, and not the "worst case scenario" of \$1.8M, the district may be able to reinstate 6 FTE (out of 13.1 FTE) of the certificated staff reductions originally projected. It was also noted that about 3 FTE of certificated staff reduction is related to enrollment. Questions from committee members centered on understanding the differences between enrollment-related and state budget impact-related staffing reductions, and how the state-mandated salary reductions will be addressed. During the conversation, Director of Human Resources Cami Dombkowski addressed the issue of classified staffing reductions, noting because there will be different student needs next year, special education paraeducators would be reduced by 30 hours per week, and bus drivers would be reduced by 7 hours per week. While some of these reductions will be addressed through attrition, there will be staff reductions. This will result in a Reduction in Force resolution to be presented to the board at the June 30th meeting. Because the staffing reductions were related to special education, Executive Director Betsy Minor Reid explained the ever increasing threshold for special education reimbursements in the form of Safety Net funds.

Ms. Chapel talked about the timeline for finalizing the budget stating the Reduction In Force (RIF) resolution for classified staffing reductions will be brought to the Board on June 30th. The preliminary district budget will be presented to the Board on July 28th, but will be available to the public by July 10th. The final budget will be presented to the Board of approval on August 25th.