

Board Work Session: April 10, 2015

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Approved. No action coming out of executive session.

Budget discussion

Dr. Moss presented several topics for discussion relating to the 2015-16 budget, including a cost-of-living adjustment for district employees; additional funds to provide tutoring for students who need it; and additional funding to hire reading intervention teachers who would provide targeted assistance to kindergarten, first- and second-graders not reading on grade level;

Dr. Moss said that he and Durham School Services officials had met with state school bus transportation officials to determine cost estimates for providing bus service to support the district's expanding school choice program. At this point, he said, it's not possible to provide those cost estimates.

Dr. Moss also provided cost estimates to restore hall monitor positions to the budget, although he stated that given a choice, he would prefer to fund specialists to help students who are struggling to read on grade level.

Board members engaged in an extended discussion about setting budget priorities and communicating about the budget to the district's parents and stakeholders.

Motion to include funding for reading interventionists in the district's budget for the 2015-16 school year. Approved.

Motion to include funding for targeted student tutoring in all schools in the district's budget for the 2015-16 school year. Approved.

Motion not to include funding for hall monitors in the district's budget for the 2015-16 school year. Approved.

Motion to include funding for a one-year cost of living supplement for certified staff in the district's budget for the 2015-16 school year. Approved.

Motion to include funding for a one-year cost-of-living supplement for classified (non-certified) staff in the district's budget for the 2015-16 school year. Approved.

Motion to include funding for a one-year cost-of-living supplement for school-based and district administrative staff in the district's budget for the 2015-16 school year.

Unitary status

General Counsel Drew Davis gave a presentation to Board members on the school district's amended desegregation plan, which requires that the Board of Education and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights must begin discussion during the 2014-2015 school year as to whether the district should further amend the plan, draft a new plan or seek "unitary status," which would end the federal government's regulatory control over desegregation issues in the district.

Chairman Evans adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.