



PUBLIC INFORMATION

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News

Process for budget decision making adopted by Board of Education

At their May 22 meeting, the Madison Board of Education adopted a process for making decisions about their changes to the proposed 2006-07 district budget. The process incorporates their individual budget amendments and prioritizes potential additions and cuts based on frequency of Board member mention.

“That we have an agreed upon process in advance of our budget decisions is new for the Board of Education,” said Board President Johnny Winston, Jr. “These budget decisions are very difficult to make, and we want the community to know that we have in place a process that should help us work through these decisions.”

There will be a public hearing on the Board’s amendments on Tuesday, May 30 at 6:30 pm at the Doyle building. (Board meeting begins at 5:00 pm.) The Board is scheduled to finalize the 06-07 working budget at a meeting on Wednesday, May 31 at 5:00pm also in the Doyle building.

The budget decision making process follows:

Purpose: determine what items the BOE is willing to consider, and prioritize them.		
Step	Action	Objective
1. by May 24	Board members create individual lists of proposed adds and cuts (amendments.)	Identify possible additions and cuts from the perspective of individual board members.
2. before May 31	Combine individual lists of proposed adds and cuts, rank ordered by frequency of mention, into one list for adds and one list for cuts.	--Shift from individual proposals to a group proposal. --Rank order items by frequency of mention across individual lists
3. May 31	Each board member places a mark by any add or cut that they are willing to <i>consider</i> . Each Board member can place only one mark per item.	Begin to narrow the possible cuts and adds
4. May 31	Proceed with discussion.	Focus discussion and effort on the items with the highest probability of support from at least 4 members.

Ground rules:

1. Marks (sticky dots) identify items that an individual Board member is willing to consider, not a vote. Votes will be conducted in the usual manner.
2. Proposed cuts and adds must be identified prior to the meeting to be included in the discussion, but Board members may make new proposals as appropriate at the budget discussion.
3. The resulting budget must be balanced, that is, the total proposed adds must have a corresponding total of proposed cuts.
4. Proposed adds and cuts may be combined or modified in discussion to create a new idea.

For more information, contact Ken Syke, 663-1903, or Joe Quick, 663-1902.