

Budget Committee

Function of the Budget Committee

It is the function of the budget committee to approve budget estimates for an educational plan previously determined by the Board. Educational policy decisions are the responsibility of the Board, not the budget committee. The budget committee will determine levels of spending, but will not determine programs. While the committee in effect may delete programs because of the deletion of funds in arriving at a district budget, the committee is primarily charged with a fiscal evaluation of programs. The committee may, alternatively, set an amount to be cut from the budget and request that the administration make such reductions in accordance with priorities set by the Board.

Organization, Membership and Terms of Office

The district budget committee will consist of the five members of the Board and five electors appointed by the Board as required by law. To be eligible for appointment, the appointive member must live in the district and not be an officer, agent or employee of the district. Terms of appointed members of a budget committee that prepares an annual budget will be three years each with appointments made so that, as nearly as practicable, terms of one third of the members expire each year.

At the beginning of the school year, the Board will identify which vacant positions on the budget committee must be filled by appointment of the Board. The Board will announce the vacancies and receive applications from interested persons. Such applications will include a signed statement stating that the applicant is willing to serve as a member of the budget committee. The Board may contact the person who previously served in the now vacant position to ascertain his or her willingness to serve another term if appointed.

Meetings of the Budget Committee

The budget committee shall hold one or more meetings to receive the budget message, the budget document and to provide members of the public with an opportunity to ask questions about and comment on the budget document. The budget committee shall announce the time and place for all such meetings, as provided by law. All meetings of the budget committee are open to the public.

The budget committee will hold its first regular organizational meeting on a day set by the Board. A presiding officer shall be elected from among its members at this meeting. It may also establish such other ground rules as it deems necessary for the successful operation of the committee.

The budget committee may request of the superintendent or business manager any information used in the preparation of or for use in revising the budget document. The committee may request the attendance of any district employee at its meetings. The budget committee will approve the budget document as submitted by the superintendent or as subsequently revised by the committee. The hearing on the approved budget is held by the Board.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 174.130
ORS 192.610 – 192.710
ORS 294.305 – 294.565