



FOREST GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE  
1728 Main Street; Forest Grove, OR 97116

May 21, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER**

Budget Committee Chair Nicholas Hafez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone; he then led the pledge of allegiance. The following were in attendance:

**Budget Committee**

Dave Andersen/ Jennifer Thomas  
Susan Field  
Melinda Fischer, Committee Vice Chair  
Brisa Franco  
Kate Grandusky  
Nicholas Hafez, Committee Chair  
Kristy Kottkey  
Alma Lozano  
Jordan Miller  
Pete Truax  
Maya Andrade, Student Representative (absent)

**Staff**

Ilean Clute, Director of Finance  
Sarah Hamlin, Director of Human Resources  
Arturo Lomeli, Assistant Superintendent  
Enrique Pinon, Technology Manage  
Kim Shearer, Director of Student Service  
David Warner, Director of Communications  
Suzanne West, Superintendent  
Bethany Magnuson, Executive Assistant

**PRELIMINARIES**

**Approval of the Agenda**

Committee member Grandusky moved to approve the agenda as presented, committee member Truax seconded and the agenda was approved.

**Approval of May 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Committee member Andersen/Thomas moved to approve the April 14, 2026 meeting minutes as presented, Committee member Lozano seconded. Motion passes with a vote of 10-0.

**Responses to Budget Committee Questions, Comments, Requests**

Presented by Ilean Clute, Director of Finance

Director Clute provided an overview of the Budget Committee’s responsibilities and reviewed the budget development process. Key points included:

- The role of the Budget Committee in reviewing the proposed budget, testing assumptions against district goals, considering public feedback, and recommending a budget for Board adoption.
- A review of actions available to the Budget Committee, including approving the budget as proposed, adjusting appropriations, or moving appropriations between major functions.
- An overview of the district’s budget engagement process, including community and staff feedback opportunities, Budget 101 and Budget 102 sessions, Budget Committee meetings, and the upcoming Budget Hearing scheduled for June 9, 2026.

Director Clute responded to questions submitted by committee members, including discussion regarding:

- District comparison data and financial benchmarks from similarly sized Oregon school districts to provide additional context regarding class sizes, expenditure patterns, reserve levels, and long-term financial sustainability.
- Budget change procedures after adoption and requirements for supplemental budgets.
- The Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) and Student Investment Account (SIA) funding.
- Enrollment projections and state school fund assumptions.
- Staffing allocations and reductions.
- Fund balances and reserve levels.
- Long-term financial sustainability.
- Grant funding and restricted resources.
- Free and reduced meals scenario
- Impacts of declining enrollment and rising operational costs.

Committee members engaged in discussion regarding the district’s financial outlook, budget assumptions, community engagement efforts, and the challenges associated with balancing available resources with student and staff needs.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Budget Committee Questions/ Comments/ Discussion**

Each committee member had the opportunity to share final comments regarding the proposed budget. Members acknowledged the difficult financial decisions reflected in the budget and expressed appreciation for staff transparency, community input, and the comprehensive responses provided throughout the budget process. Several members emphasized the value of continued community engagement and opportunities for public dialogue regarding future budget planning.

**Next Steps**

Three options:

Approve the budget as is.

Amend appropriations by major fund/function.

Adjourn to allow time to digest and consider additional information.

Committee member Truax moved to approve the budget as is, committee member Franco seconded.

Discussion: Committee members reflected on the value of the roundtable discussion, noting that hearing diverse perspectives helped inform their thinking; while concerns remained about the budget's challenges and limited options, members expressed appreciation for the district's efforts, recognized lessons learned through the process, affirmed confidence in the decisions being made, and encouraged continued community engagement and dialogue around future budget development.

Role Call Vote:

Andersen/Thomas: yes; Field: yes; Fischer: yes; Franco: yes; Grandusky: yes; Hafez: yes; Kottkey: yes; Lozano: yes; Miller: yes; Truax: yes

Motion passes with a vote of 10-0.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned 7:32 p.m.