

# OREGON-DAVIS SCHOOL CORPORATION

**Wednesday, November 29, 2017  
Public Work Session, 6:30 PM**

**Oregon-Davis JR/Sr High School Cafeteria, 5990 North 750 East, Hamlet, IN 46532**

The Board of School Trustees of the Oregon-Davis School Corporation met in a Public Work Session on Wednesday evening, November 29, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Cafeteria of the Jr/Sr High School, pursuant to the rules of the Board.

## **1.0 Notice to Public**

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1.01 Welcome by Board President Chris Lawrence. Board Members in attendance: Chris Lawrence, Andrea McIntosh, Kurt Hayes, Shirley Budka, Annette Ferch.

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance - led by Chris Lawrence. After the pledge, Mr. Lawrence turned the time over to Dr. Harman, Superintendent.

## **2.0 Agenda**

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2.01 School Board Work Session and Community Input regarding the Fiscal Strategic Planning for Future Operations which includes the General Fund and Referendum Fund of the Oregon-Davis School Corporation. Dr. Harman welcomed everyone that came to the meeting and passed out cards and pencils for audience members to write down questions to be answered after the presentations. The presentation Dr. Harman presented was the same as the presentation at the November 13th Work Session. He did update the enrollment. Since September 15th, Oregon-Davis had gained some students. As of November 13th the enrollment was at 561, but on November 29th the enrollment was back to 555. It was brought out during the course of the meeting that funds tied to the ADM (enrollment) are based on the count day (the second Friday in September). What ever that number is on that date is what funding from the state per pupil is based on. If 10 students enroll the Monday following count day, the funds tied to those students will stay at the school where they were enrolled on count day.

Dr. Harman also told the audience about an article that was in the Indianapolis Star (<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/education/2017/11/21/two-indiana-school-systems-went-broke-others-danger/845061001/>) this past week that did an excellent job of explaining the changes in school finance over the last several years.

Dr. Harman explained that funding challenges are tied to three main reasons: state funding changes, decreased enrollment and a decrease in assessed values. The current referendum is an operating referendum which means the revenue goes into the general fund. The current referendum was passed in 2012 and will expire in May of 2019, at that time that source of revenue will be gone. If the Board Members decide to ask for a renewal of the referendum or even an increase, Dr. Harman would recommend to them to ask in May of 2018. If they wait until May of 2019 the corporation will be responsible for the cost of a special election. Also,

because of deadlines, if the Board would choose to proceed with a referendum in May of 2018, they will need to approve a resolution before the middle of December.

Mr. Bowsher from Umbaugh's also presented the same powerpoint he did on November 13th with a few additions. He did mention before he started that the state just informed schools before Thanksgiving that the State of Indiana did not fully fund the appropriations to school corporations for the current funding period and so will be decreasing their payments to schools.

Mr. Bowsher also explained that if the referendum is not renewed, the costs that were supported by the referendum would shift back to the General Fund. This along with the other factors contributing to decreased revenue received would lead to a deficit in excess of \$8 million by 2026. He then explained with the different tax rates what the deficit or reserves would be. If the Board chose to ask for a 49 cent tax rate and it was approved by voters there would be a \$151,00 reserve by 2026. He then reviewed the impact to taxpayers with each tax rate with the only new information being related to the 49 cent tax rate. At that rate a median home value of \$101,700 would see an additional tax of \$102.41 per year; farmland would increase by \$5.60 per acre per year; rental and commercial property would see an increase of \$302.50 per year. This additional information was furnished in response to a question at the last work session on what a break even point would be.

Dr. Harman then discussed cost reductions the corporation has made and some of the positives of an education at Oregon-Davis. Time was opened up for questions and discussion. Several audience members had used the cards passed out at the beginning of the meeting to ask questions that Dr. Harman and Mr. Bowsher tried to answer at this time. Many viewpoints were expressed by the audience and the school board. Dr. Harman again invited anyone that wanted to discuss this further to call, email or come in to talk with him.

2.02 Adjournment - Mr. Lawrence asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Mrs. Budka with Mrs. Ferch seconding. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

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Minutes recorded by Julie McLiver