

ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

For Your Information

May 17, 2019

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

State budget plan heads to conference committee

The \$9 billion state budget ([H.4000](#)) is headed to a conference committee after the House took up, amended and voted to non-concur (not agree to) with the Senate version of the budget this past week. The six-member conference committee (three House members and three Senators) is expected to work out the differences between the House and Senate budgets this week before lawmakers return Monday, May 20, 2019. House conferees are Reps. Murrell Smith, Gary Simrill and Todd Rutherford. Senate conferees are Sens. Hugh Leatherman, Sean Bennett and Darrell Jackson. Many of the provisions for K12 spending in the House and Senate budget proposals are the same. These provisions are now “locked” into the budget. Highlights of the same provisions are as follows:

\$159 million for a 4 percent increase in teacher salaries and to increase a beginning teacher’s salary from \$32,000 to \$35,000

\$10 million for hiring of School Resource Officers (SROs)

\$19.3 million for purchase/lease of school buses

\$20 million for instructional materials

\$49.7 million for employee health and dental insurance increases

\$35 million (\$4 million from Education Improvement Act) for employer retirement contribution increase.

The request for proposals for banking services is posted until 11:00AM, May 29, 2019.

Board meeting – A special call Board meeting will be held at Nix Center of Excellence, 770 Stilton Road, Orangeburg, SC.

INSTRUCTION

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction is in the initial stage of working with the Transportation Department to develop routes for students who will participate in Orangeburg County School District and Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College partnership. The goal is to significantly increase the number of students who participate in the Early College Program. Transportation has been somewhat of a barrier in the past; therefore, significant effort is being put forth to eliminate all obstacles to students’ successful participation in this partnership. A special effort is being made so that students who reside in the outlining areas of Orangeburg County can take full advantage of receiving courses at OCtech that will assist them in earning college and high school credits at the same time. Transportation has been asked to provide an additional route from Lake Marion High School to OC Tech daily and to establish routes from the present Orangeburg Four attendance area. During the current school year, no students were transported by bus to OCtech from the Orangeburg Four attendance area.

Throughout the months of April and May, OCtech has been working with the Orangeburg County school counselors and principals to bring awareness to some exciting opportunities for the 2019-2020 academic year. SC WINS, a scholarship program funded by SC General Assembly, will cover the cost of college tuition for high school (Early College) and traditional college students who enroll in one of six career clusters: Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, Healthcare, Hospitality, Information Technology, and Transportation and Logistics. The goals are to reduce the barrier of paying for college, reduce student debt, and also to create a pipeline into high wage, high demand jobs in South Carolina. In addition, OCtech is creating work-based learning opportunities for students interested in the fields of automotive technology and advanced manufacturing. Students selected to participate will enroll in classes at the college and work part-time in their chosen field of

study. Partnerships like these with local employers in Orangeburg County provide valuable work experiences for students and allow for the transition into meaningful careers more quickly.

Child Early Reading Development Education Program registration is in progress and ends on June 30, 2019.

FINANCE

The schedule for adoption of the 2019-2020 general fund budget is as follows:

OCSD May 14 - 1st Reading Passed

OCSD May 28 - 2nd Reading /Public input session

OCSD June 11 - 3rd Reading

Tax Assumptions

Based on information received from the county, a growth value of 1% is included. Orangeburg County School District's Index of Tax Paying Ability is .01347, down from the current .01449. A projected tax increase has not been included. The annual millage rate increase allowed under Act 388 is 2.44%, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus the population growth of Orangeburg County for the same period.

State Revenue Assumptions

Based on budget projections received recently, increase to starting teacher salary to \$35,000, a 4% salary increase and step increase for teachers are included. A projected Base Student Cost of \$2,487 is included.

General Operating Assumptions

Student enrollment has shown a slight decrease over the past 3 years of approximately 2% but leveled off and is flat for the 2019-2020 school year.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The employees of the Orangeburg County School District make up the most important resource for providing a quality educational program for the students of the county. It is the goal of the Human Resources Division to recruit and select the very best available candidates for all open positions in the district. The hiring process continues at all levels; administrative, certified and support staff. The members of the Human Resources Division are available to assist individuals seeking employment, and current employees with any matters related to the employment process or their current employment status.

The Human Resources Department began the process of building the position control functions in IVisions to prepare for the July 1, 2019 merger date. Additionally, Orangeburg County School District is working with Frontline to expand the use of various components of the Frontline Platform to include the entire county.

Finally, Mr. Jerome Davis and Mrs. Loretta Gadson-Washington will join the Human Resources Department for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Davis will serve as Director of Certified Personnel and Mrs. Gadson-Washington will serve as Director of Classified Personnel.

AUXILIARY SERVICES

Food & Nutrition Services Update: Departmental organization and selection of personnel is currently in progress for this department that will serve meals, twice daily, to nearly 12,000 students and employees. Meetings with the State Department of Education are ongoing as they advise on the consolidation of the three programs. The

Summer Feeding Program is at the forefront of planning at this time. This program serves meals to students throughout the summer months with services consolidating on July 1, 2019. Preparations are underway to make sure all services, including payment of staff, are able to be taken on by the county District in July. Additionally, vendors are being selected for all components of the food service program. Once this process is completed, menus will be developed and approved at the state level. All three current districts are CEP districts, meaning universal free meals are available to all students. The state will determine if this will be the case with the new District, as well.
