

Summary Report for the Board: Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Overview

Introduction: The Mountain View Whisman School District (MVWSD) is in the process of establishing a Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) to enhance transparency, inclusivity, and stakeholder engagement in the district's financial decision-making process. This initiative aligns with the district's Strategic Plan Goal #5, focusing on the equitable distribution of resources to support student success.

Purpose and Role of the BAC: The BAC is designed to serve as an advisory body to the Superintendent, Chief Business Officer, and Director of Finance. Its primary responsibilities include:

1. **Review and Analysis:** Examining the district's budget, revenue sources, and expenditures to understand financial trends and make informed recommendations.
2. **Feedback on Budget Priorities:** Offering input on budget priorities, cost-saving measures, and revenue enhancement opportunities while minimizing the impact on student learning and staff welfare.
3. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Acting as a liaison between the district and the broader community, sharing information, and gathering input from stakeholders.
4. **Collaboration:** Working with other committee members to develop practices that support the district's educational goals.

Need for the BAC: The formation of the BAC comes in response to a demonstrated disconnect between stakeholders and the district over the use of resources. There is a recognized need for clarity regarding district financial procedures and legal obligations, as well as the benefit of incorporating diverse stakeholder perspectives to ensure initiatives are appropriately aligned with the district's strategic goals.

Committee Composition: The BAC will consist of 8 to 18 members selected to ensure comprehensive representation across the district. The committee will include:

- District Administrators (Principals, Directors, Managers)
- Representatives from employee associations (e.g., teachers' unions, classified staff unions)
- Parents and Guardians from various school sites with financial leadership experience
- Community Members (local business owners, community leaders, and residents with financial expertise)
- Board Members

Membership is designed to reflect the diversity of the district, both geographically and demographically.

Commitment and Meetings: The BAC will meet quarterly, with additional meetings scheduled as necessary during the budget season. Members are expected to actively participate in discussions and subcommittees and commit to attending at least 75% of meetings. Participation may also extend to community engagement outside of regular BAC meetings.

Application Process: Interested individuals are encouraged to apply online by September 13th, 2024. An ad hoc committee will review applications with names redacted to ensure impartiality and will make recommendations to the board for final approval.

The establishment of the BAC is a strategic step towards fostering a more inclusive and transparent budgeting process within the MVWSD. By incorporating diverse perspectives, the district aims to navigate financial challenges effectively and ensure that resources are equitably allocated to support all students.