

Canby School District Budget Committee Frequently Asked Questions

General budget committee questions

What is a budget committee?

A budget committee is a group of school board members and citizens that reviews the school district's proposed budget. The committee is composed of the school board and an equal number of citizens. The committee reviews the budget at a public meeting. The public is encouraged to attend because one of the most important purposes of the committee is to take comments and questions from interested citizens. The committee can make changes to the proposed budget to reflect changes it wants to make in the local government's spending in order to meet the goals and objectives established by the school board. When it is satisfied, the committee approves the budget.

Each of the members has the same authority, whether school board member or appointed citizen. Each appointed member is appointed for staggered 3-year terms. The committee cannot receive reimbursement for expenses incurred while serving.

Who can be on a budget committee?

The budget committee is composed of the school board and an equal number of qualified voters from the district. Officers, agents, or employees of the school district may not sit on the committee. If the school board can't find enough citizens willing to serve on the budget committee, then the committee is made up of the number of citizens who will serve and the school board.

What are the required positions on a budget committee?

The "presiding officer" position is the only position required by law. At the budget committee's first meeting after appointment, the budget committee must elect a presiding officer. ORS 294.336(9). The presiding officer chairs the committee meetings. A vice chair may be elected. The vice chair position is created to chair meetings in the absence of a presiding officer.

What does the budget committee do?

In general, the budget committee reviews and approves the school district's proposed budget. The criteria used to review budget are the school district's expressly stated goals. Therefore, if a budget committee approves a proposed budget, then the committee certifies that the district is planning to spend money in furtherance of expressly stated goals.

NOTE: The committee approves the budget and refers it to the school board. The school board adopts the budget.

What does the budget committee NOT do?

The budget committee does not set salaries, benefits, or contract terms for employees or administrators. The budget committee does not set staffing levels. The budget committee does not decide whether or not a service or program should be provided. The budget committee does not make district policies.

What is the first step for a budget committee?

The first step for a budget committee is to fill all positions on the budget committee. The school board appoints the citizen-members. If the school board is unable to find enough citizens willing to serve on the budget committee, then the committee is made up of the citizens who will serve and all the members of the governing body.