

City Council



1049 State Avenue
Marysville, WA 98270

**Joint Meeting
City Council & School Board
May 23, 2022**

Call to Order

Mayor Nehring called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance:

City of Marysville:

Mayor Jon Nehring
Council President Kamille Norton
Councilmember Kelly Richards
Councilmember Steve Muller
Councilmember Tom King

Marysville School District:

Interim Supt. Dr. Chris Pearson
Board President Paul Galovin
Board Vice President Wade Rinehardt
Board Member Connor Kreib

Levy Response/Budget Reductions

Dr. Pearson gave an overview on the budgetary impacts of reduced revenue as a result of the levy failure. He stressed that their intention is to minimize the impact of the double levy failure on students. He summarized that they need to reduce \$13.5 million from the 2022-2023 school year to make up for lost revenue they won't be collecting. Feedback from a recent survey showed community priorities include (in order of priority): safety and security, lower class size, facilities and maintenance, athletic/extracurricular activities, transportation, special programs, instructional materials, teacher training, and service center. He discussed potential scenarios with the reduced budget. These would include higher class sizes and reductions to the service center; athletics and extracurricular activities; instructional materials; maintenance, facilities and grounds; professional learning support/training resources; and special district programs.

Comments and Questions:

Councilmember Muller asked about staffing and the impacts of retiring teachers. Dr. Pearson discussed the challenges to planning for the number of teachers they will need and how the District is approaching this. 4th through 12th grades will see the biggest impacts of the larger class sizes. Councilmember Muller asked about people leaving the District. Mr. Pearson explained that the budget already anticipates a 2.5% decline.

Councilmember Richards asked about making Marysville Pilchuck 10th-12th grades and Getchell 8th-9th. They could then only have one sports team for all of the sports which could save some money. Dr. Pearson replied that would likely be considered if the levy doesn't pass the next time. Councilmember Richards asked if Marysville Online will still be an option. Dr. Pearson replied that it will be.

Council President Norton encouraged the District to address the concerns people have about administrative costs. Since many salaries are covered by grants which are earmarked for those positions, cutting them would not help the budget. Dr. Pearson concurred, and stressed they are attempting to reduce where possible at the district level without reducing building-level administrators.

Council President Norton asked about the reasons for declining enrollment. Dr. Pearson replied that there has been a significant increase in homelessness and people seeking affordable housing in other places. They are also seeing some choosing to do school online and/or at home.

Councilmember Richards suggested breaking down the administrative costs to show what portion is paid with grant money so people know that they won't save anything by cutting those costs.

Councilmember Muller referred to declining enrollment and asked about combining elementary schools. Dr. Pearson replied that would likely be discussed if they can't pass levies.

Board Member Kreib suggested looking at opportunities for the City and the District to cooperate and collaborate. Mayor Nehring was open to looking at ways to partner, but suggested that the attorneys and staff members work out details.

On behalf of Marysville Strawberry Festival, Councilmember King thanked the District for the upcoming use of Asbury Field. He also expressed concern about the shabbiness of grounds Sunnyside Elementary School look. He recalled they used to have a very active parent group who did projects such as cleaning the grounds and painting. He suggested looking into this and also utilizing service clubs to help spruce it up.

Councilmember Muller asked where they go from here and what they can do to pass a levy. President Galovin spoke to the importance of engaging people who are not involved in the District. He commented on the value of getting answers to questions that

people have and responding to concerns they have heard. There was discussion about the very small voter turnout and the need to get more people out to vote. Starting early with the next levy will be important as well as possibly looking into hiring a marketing firm.

Councilmember Richards expressed hope that if the SRO gets cut, the police could still have a presence on campus somehow.

President Galovin asked about opportunities to look at development fees. Mayor Nehring clarified that the District has to come to the City with the numbers to justify the numbers. It's a formula based on enrollment and growth.

Council President Norton added that they often hear that if Marysville had marijuana stores the schools would have more money. This is simply not true; the City is giving up its own general fund dollars by not having a marijuana tax. Even if they wanted to, they couldn't legally gift it to the District.

Council President Norton asked for an explanation about how volunteers can and cannot help. Dr. Pearson explained that volunteers can't replace anyone's work, but one-time events are fine.

Councilmember Muller thanked the Board for consistently meeting with the Council. Mayor Nehring thanked Dr. Pearson for filling in as interim superintendent during a difficult season. Council President Norton concurred. Mayor Nehring encouraged the Board in their role.

President Galovin expressed appreciation for the meetings also.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Approved this 16th day of June, 2022.

Mayor
Jon Nehring

