



**FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J**  
**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

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**BUDGET MEETING of the FERN RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 28J**

**April 14, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.**  
**88834 Territorial Road**  
**Elmira, OR 97437**  
**Or**

**<https://fernridge-k12-or-us.zoom.us/j/83643709935>**

**MINUTES**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE (Agenda Items 1 & 2)** The Budget Committee Meeting of the Fern Ridge School District was called to order by Budget Committee member Tory Macklin at 6:33 p.m. Tory Macklin led the flag salute.

In attendance were School Board Members WC Grover and Mark Gent; Budget Committee Members Tory Macklin, Erik Carlstrom, Krista Spencer, and Haley Herbert; as well as Superintendent Gary Carpenter and Business Manager Quanah Bennett.

Board Members Kathleen Pizzola, Lisa McCann and Brian Kirkpatrick were absent. Budget Committee Member David Voltz was also absent.

**Agenda Item 1:**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Budget Committee Member Tory Macklin made a motion to nominate Budget Committee Member Erik Carlstrom for Budget Committee Chair; the motion was seconded by Director WC Grover. Erik Carlstrom then nominated Tory Macklin as Budget Committee Vice-Chair; this motion was also seconded by Director WC Grover. Both motions passed with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

**Agenda Item 2:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Budget Committee Member Tory Macklin made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2025, budget meeting. The motion was seconded by Budget Committee Member Krista Spencer. The motion passed with 6 yes votes and 0 no votes.

**OVERVIEW OF BUDGET PROCESS & BUDGET COMMITTEE ROLE:** Business Manager Quanah Bennett gave an overview of the budget process, timelines, and the role of the Budget Committee.

**BUDGET PREPERATION & FORECASTING:**

Business Manager Quanah Bennett led a review of the key factors that will go into preparing the budget for 2026-2027 as follows:

- A timeline was reviewed outlining when meetings take place and when the budget is officially adopted.
- An explanation was given regarding what the budget is, the legal requirements surrounding it, and the composition of the Budget Committee.
- The roles and responsibilities of the Budget Committee—what it does and does not do—were explained.
- An overview of the budget document was provided, highlighting sections to focus on within the nearly 200-page document.
- Known and unknown factors regarding revenues were reviewed.
- Known and unknown factors regarding expenditures were reviewed.
- An overview of the sources of General Fund revenues was provided.
- A graph of the past three biennial State School Fund allocations was presented.
- A history of enrollment and projections for 2026–27 were presented.
- A slide showing how weights are applied to ADMr was presented, along with a discussion of the 11% cap on special education students.
- A history of the General Fund ending fund balance was reviewed, along with projections for 2025–26 and 2026–27.
- A slide of projected reserves was provided, along with an explanation of what each reserve is used for.

Business Manager Quanah Bennett explained that the next step is to build the budget. The document should be ready for review by May 12th and will be available on the district website. It will also be emailed out, with hard copies available upon request. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19th, 2026, at the District Office and will also be accessible virtually. At that meeting, the budget message will be read and the proposed budget will be presented for approval.

Business Manager Quanah Bennett asked if there were any Questions:

There were none.

**RECESS UNTIL NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 7): Budget Committee chair Erik Carlstrom moved to recess the meeting at 7: 03 pm until May 19th.**

Attest:

X

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Erik Carlstrom  
Budget Committee Chair

X

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Gary Carpenter  
Superintendent/Budget Officer