TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING

OAK RIDGE SCHOOLS - OAK RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BOARD ROOM

MONDAY - MAY 13, 2013

5:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

MR. W. KEYS FILLAUER, CHAIRMAN

MS. ANGI AGLE

MR. DAN DIGREGORIO

MR. ROBERT EBY

MS. JENNIFER RICHTER

ALSO PRESENT:

DR. BOB SMALLRIDGE, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DR. LARISSA HENDERSON, INTERIM ASSISTANT

SUPERINTENDENT

MS. KAREN GAGLIANO, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS & SUPPORT SERVICES

JOAN S. ROBERTS - COURT REPORTER
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CHAIRMAN FILLAUER: I'd like to call to order a special meeting of the Oak Ridge Board of Education Monday, May 13th. This is a special-called Board meeting and the purpose of this meeting is to hear the Superintendent's budget presentation. After this presentation, which does not mean this is the budget the Board will pass, we will begin tomorrow night in earnest again at 5:30 with a line-by-line item discussion of the expenditures in this budget. I will give an opportunity to the Board to make any comments that they might want to make after the presentation. I would like to say that I, probably speaking for every member of the Board, this budget is not acceptable. It doesn't have anything to do with preparation of the budget; it has to do with what we had to work with to prepare this budget. I think, and I would recommend, that we begin in earnest as soon as possible looking to next budget cycle. We have, over the last several years, worked from the back end into an amount of money that we have to spend. And consequently and I think I can go back all the way to Dr. Bailey's first year here as

superintendent so that's been over ten years ago

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1 is, working with the revenue that we have projected, 2 it looks like we just had to make some very serious 3 decisions and very tough cuts. It will be a fairly 4 brief overview of the FY '14 proposed budget. I'm 5 going to get Karen to jump in here whenever I misspeak or leave something out. I'll try to 6 7 operate the remote here for the budget at the same 8 time. This Superintendent didn't come with a 9 warranty on technology so you have to bear with me.

10 Starting off with the first budget 11 we are talking about you will see some very 12 significant decreases in state and local revenues 13 and I think that's going to continue, as the 14 Chairman has pointed out, to continue to have an 15 impact on future budgets. We will break that down, I will break that down in a few minutes so you can 16 17 see what I'm talking about. Also, due to the 18 current federal budget sequestration, the estimated 19 FY'14 allocation for federal programs is down by 5.2%, or more in some cases. Again, we don't have 20 21 all the information. We have a pretty good fix on our revenues; in some other areas we don't have all 22 23 the information we need but if we get any additional 24 information, we will bring that to the Board right

that everytime we have looked at this budget we have looked at it from the standpoint of what we are going to have to cut and what we are going to have to reduce. Now that doesn't mean that we are still not supporting programs but it does mean we are losing programs, we are losing personnel. That's not acceptable. Also it's not acceptable to look at our most prized product and that is our teaching staff and look and say that we cannot give you a 10 raise and possibly because of the increase in health 11 insurance you may be making actually less than what 12 you made the following year. So I think we need to 13 work with the city to take a look at this process 14 where we can come into this budget from the front 15 end and we can say this is what we need to operate 16 the Oak Ridge Schools to the standard that we are 17 used to and this community expects and then work 18 from that direction instead of the other way. We 19 have been coming that other way for too long. So 20 that's my statement.

Dr. Smallridge, it's all yours.

Chairman. I want to say I'm not very pleased with the budget that I'm presenting either. Such as it

DR. SMALLRIDGE: Thank you, Mr.

1 away. 2 Impacts and challenges; we've been 3 recently informed by the Tennessee Department of 4 Education that they have determined that LEA 5 expenditures for services to intellectually gifted 6 students cannot be included in the special education 7 calculation. For maintenance of effort we currently 8 have 243 intellectually gifted students. 9 Eliminating this group from that formula could mean that we would have to provide additional local 10 11 funding for special education. That is something we 12 just have to continue to follow and make an 13 adjustment as we learn more.

English language learners, testing requirements, we are not required to screen students identified as possible English language learner students for St. Mary's private school. It's not entirely clear at this point if we will be required to also provide service for these students. So again we will have to see what the future holds for this change.

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Changes in the kindergarten enrollment dates. The state has moved the date from September 30th to August 31st. So we will have a

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group of kindergarten students who would normally have qualified this year who have birthdates in September and they will not qualify because of the cut-off date. So it could impact the number of kindergarten students we have for the coming year and then again it could impact us for the 2014-2015 year.

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Impacts of the Affordable Care Act; it does carry a potential impact for the budget and our employees. We are learning more about the requirements as we go along, again, but they will affect a limited number of our employees who maybe don't work full time or in some cases do work full time but do not receive hospitalization. We must provide affordable insurance to all full time employees and full time employees are identified as those with 30 hours or more. So this is an area that we will have to keep tabs on and could have some financial impact.

Completion of the fiberoptics project. I'm pleased to say we are moving ahead with this project in partnership with the city. And, as you know, you all have set aside \$175,000 which has been carried in the budgets over the past

couple of years. And then we do have \$240,000 that we will be receiving from the governor's technology initiatives. So we should have enough and, again, working with the city to complete this project this coming year.

This is year four of First to the Top federal funding. And that is funding which supports a number of district initiatives; inservice, staff development, curriculum projects. It's money that we have some flexibility in terms of supporting these types of initiatives. And the coming year is the last year that we will have for that money.

And then there are some state curriculum changes, impacts that will probably affect us maybe somewhat this coming year but especially in 2014 and 2015. And that's the new park assessments, the 2014-15 we need to get ready for them this year.

All districts and schools will be required to develop and begin implementation of a three-tiered response to intervention model. And the full implementation will be required again by July 1, 2014. But a lot of work to do during the

Enrollment; we of course always look at enrollment in terms of the budget year. It's fairly stable. We are projected to lose about 20 students. Most of those at the elementary level and then the middle school and the high school are pretty stable. But it's a fairly minor adjustment in our enrollment.

Now we get to the dollar figures. The general purpose school fund is projected to be \$49,610,735. The change is decrease of \$1,012, I'm going to use round figures here, \$1,012. Federal projects fund 142 projected to be \$2,263,000, a decrease of \$132,000. And then our grand total all funds \$55,517,000, a decrease of a little over a million dollars. And there are some things I'll point out that those numbers really probably aren't as good as they look.

We have four major sources of revenue, as the Board knows very well. Property tax and the sales tax, combined county funds represent about round figures 28% of the budget. The State of Tennessee \$20,391,000, about 41% of the budget. And then the City of Oak Ridge about 28% of the budget.

7 1 We are showing, projecting a slight increase in the

property tax, less than one percent, about \$78,000.

3 The sales tax is down significantly and that's not

4 only as we are projecting for next year but because

5 the sales tax revenues for the current year are not

6 going to be as high as we anticipated. So that is a

7 very significant reduction. The State of Tennessee

8 reflects an increase of \$334,000 but that's a number

9 that looks pretty good on the surface but in a

10 minute I'm going to break it down and I think show

that it's not as good as it looks. And here is the 11

12 breakdown of state funds. The major funding source

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under state funds are the BEP, the Basic Education

14 Program. We are anticipating \$18,700,000 for that

15 program. It's obviously the largest source of

16 funding from the state. In this year it included

17 funds for salary increases and some additional money

18 for capital outlay. But our BEP funding is still

19 decreasing by \$122,000. In other words, those two

20 items are built into the \$18,700,000. And we are

21 still looking at a decrease. And we just got the

22 latest update from the state today and it's right at

23 about what we projected with the April number we got

from the state. 24

So career ladder; this is really basically pass-through money and I wanted Karen to make a comment about that. There is an increase of \$63,000 but it's again pass-through money. Karen. MS. GAGLIANO: Yeah, this was just printed on Friday and I've already got a list of adjustments for the next round and this is one of them. Normally for this line item I use the previous year's actual amount and that is what the 339 represents. However, this year we did receive the final payment for the year we are in. So I can revise that number to reflect what that really is. And the actual amount that was passed through in the year we are in is \$273,000. So actually the plus 63,230 is going to be changed to a minus 26,005. We usually don't have the actual by the time that we are doing the budget so that is a pattern I've used before. For example, we've budgeted for the year we are in \$275,000 and you can see we got an actual of 273. So normally it was pretty close. But this increase in career ladder, it shouldn't be going in that direction because, as you know, it's a state program that originated years ago and it's kind of tagged to individuals and as those individuals leave

which I think we certainly do.

Then other state funds 300,000 shows an increase of 236,000. Again that's a placeholder just put in on both sides in the event that we do get some state grants but it doesn't really help us. So you can basically discount the 253,000 and the 236,000, not discount them, but they really don't help us with the budget. So the bottom line is we are probably looking at a reduction altogether if you take the 122 and the 97, those are the two that we have flexibility with, we are looking at a reduction in the state funds of about 219,000.

And I'll be glad to answer any questions the Board members have about that.

Going on to federal projects fund; you can see all the negative numbers obviously due to the sequestration. Again, we have a number here, the 191,438, that is represented by a transfer, or most of it is represented by a transfer of \$178,000 from a separate fund. The state said we must put it in federal funds so again it looks nice up there to see 191,438 but again it really doesn't help us. And if you take the amount that we are showing

and retire then that flow-through money for that

person goes away. So I'll be adjusting that.

DR. SMALLRIDGE: Again that really doesn't impact the bottom line of the budget. It just comes in on one side and goes directly to teachers, those who have already qualified for the career ladder.

\$97,000. Again these are funds that we use to support a lot of curriculum initiatives in the service staff development. So that's a real loss that we are not going to be able to do some programs or offer some programs that we have in the past.

Early childhood money stays the
same; 450,000, that obviously goes to our preschool.
These next two I wanted to mention
a minute. Other state technology funds fiberoptics,

that shows an increase of \$253,000 but 240 of that or the majority of those funds will be going to our fiberoptics project, along with the 175,000 that the

fiberoptics project, along with the 175,000 that the Board has set aside previously. So it does help us

certainly with the technology with the fiberoptics project but it's again not funds that we have any

project but it's again not funds that we have arflexibility with if we want to do the fiberoptics,

reducing here with the 178 we are probably looking at about a \$300,000 reduction in federal funds.

Other budgeted revenues; and I

have not done anything really with some of the -- like the extended care program, the food service program, I've not really treated them in the budget. We can talk about that when we get into the line item details but we are proposing \$965,059 from the undesignated fund balance. That is a decrease. Last year you all had a little more in the budget, well, quite a bit more \$387,000. And the equipment rental and replacement fund 139,000, which covers some vehicles and bus leases and so on. And the First to the Top money that we mentioned that was transferred from Fund 148 to 142.

Significant expenditure increases; again I have not tried to list everything here, just some of the more major changes. The cost of our salary steps \$467,000. And I'll say I'm not pleased about it but it is the only salary change that I have in the budget that I'm presenting tonight.

Staff addition; we are proposing one additional staff that is for a special education class that we feel is definitely needed. So that

will run about \$87,000.

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Our health insurance; I'm going to let Karen comment on that. Again, we have had a recent change and that will be something that will help us somewhat. Karen.

MS. GAGLIANO: Ok, this will be another adjustment. This one will help us as well. I had budgeted originally an estimate 12% increase for the year, which our health insurance runs on a calendar year so that would equate to a 6% increase. Then last week I went to the fiscal workshop for the state and the latest number was 7%. So I came back and in a rush to put this all together I thought, oh, I need to add a percent to what we have in the budget. So their 7% was for the entire year. So the half a year amount should be 3 1/2%. So if I back out the 7% down to 3 1/2 it's going to gain us about \$123,000 so that number would be an increase

19 of about \$282,000. 20 DR. SMALLRIDGE: Some of our other kind of fixed costs; water, sewer, electricity, 21 22 liability insurance. For the most part, these are 23 costs that we don't have a lot of control over and 24 we can't ignore, we know that costs are going up in

the year to see if we could make a reduction and we were able to do that in a number of areas listed there. Natural gas, transportation, dental insurance. So we are able to make some reductions in those areas.

6 I don't know how well you can see 7 this but this is proposed use of the fund balance. 8 The number of the items as you look at the next 9 three slides you look at this slide the equipment 10 rental and replacement fund and then the city money 11 for CIP projects 250,000, we are quite a bit of them 12 devoting to school security and it's great that we 13 are able to continue to make some progress on 14 different security items for the school. One thing 15 again that I'm not pleased with because I think the 16 best thing to use a fund balance for is non 17 recurring funds. But you can see from the list here 18 that we have a number of recurring funds in here 19 that will come back next year, obviously, trustee's 20 commission, legal services, unemployment, all those 21 costs are costs that you can expect to have in the 22 future. Equipment rental also comes from the 23 separate fund but part of our fund balance is used 24 for buses and vehicles, basically for vehicles. We

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some of these areas so...but if you total up the numbers here in this increase it comes to about a

3 million dollars, a little better than a million

4 dollars, if you take out the 123 that Karen just

5 mentioned. So we are looking at again the

6 expenditure increases the major items of about a

million dollars. Since over 80% of our budget,

about 81 to 82% of our budget goes for salaries and

9 benefits, unfortunately it's an area we have to look

10 to for significant cost reductions. And this is in

the general fund we are proposing reduction of 11

12 almost 15 positions, \$971,646 including benefits.

13 And then in federal projects full 14

time equivalents a reduction of three positions for

\$136,543 again including benefits. And a grand

total in staff reductions almost 18 positions so

17 \$1,108,000.

I mentioned the one teaching

position we are adding so that is an addition.

20 Other expenditure decreases; we

21 looked at every line item to see where we could make

22 reductions. We looked at our current spending for

23 each line item. And based on where we were the

current year projecting the last couple months of

have one district van, one bucket truck and we have 1

2 lease payments on five buses. And this is what we

3 are proposing to use the city CIP money for. Again

4 the big cost the card reader access for our security

5 system 182,000 so I am glad we are going to be able

6 to do a number of projects that will be very 7

helpful.

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Percentage distribution; I think members of the Board have seen this before. And I've talked about the numbers, the percentages. And that was revenue and appropriations.

And finally the grand total of all funds \$55,517,596, a decrease of a little over a million dollars.

Looking at the budget I'm going to say basically it's a revenue story. We are trying to cope with the cuts in revenue. We have revenue decreases, as I've pointed out, in the general purpose school fund of over a million and federal projects fund of 132,000. But if you add in the 240,000 for technology, 237,000 projected placeholder for grants that if we get the grants, great. But it comes in one side and will go out the

other. And then the federal projects transfer, we

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     are probably looking close to a million eight in
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                                                                     it ready for tomorrow night, let me know.
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     revenue reductions. Looked like the only real
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     increase we have in revenue is the property tax, a
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     small increase of 78,000, which is less than 1%. I
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                                                                     of how the students are doing, winning competitions
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     looked back over the last three budget years that
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                                                                     in Ohio and we want to continue that. We need to
     we've had and I think in each case we have been able
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                                                                     continue that. The city needs to continue that.
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     to look at some increase in revenue. Maybe not
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                                                                     And it requires support and funding and we are going
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                                                                     to have to find a way to motivate and keep this
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     enough to cover all of the expenses of all the
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     things that are going up in cost but at least we had
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                                                                     school system going the way it has in the past.
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     some revenue increase to help us a little bit. But
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     that's not the case in FY'14. I see some real
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                                                                     find this right at the moment. It may not have come
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     challenges ahead with the revenue picture if we
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                                                                     from you. Did you send an e-mail that projected
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     don't somehow pick up our revenue or in some way
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                                                                     over the next several years if money continues to
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     obtain some more financial help. We have obviously
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                                                                     come from fund balance? Did that come from you?
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     struggled with the budget and, as the Board has
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     said, I'm not happy, it's a very tight budget and I
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     know we've made some tough decisions. Certainly not
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                                                                     read that e-mail or seen that e-mail before tomorrow
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     a budget that I relish to present to the Board
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                                                                     night, go back and look at that. And I appreciate
     tonight. But I guess that's where we are and that's
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                                                                     that information because that does paint the picture
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     a quick overview. I know we will be discussing
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                                                                     of if we continue to draw from fund balance where we
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     these in much more detail over the next few days.
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                                                                     are going to be in the next several years. And
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                      That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.
                                                                     that's not good news either. Mr. DiGregorio.
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                       CHAIRMAN FILLAUER: Thank you, Dr.
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     Smallridge.
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                                                                     this. There are no raises in this, right?
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19 21 1 Are there any comments from Board 1 MS. GAGLIANO: That's right. 2 2 members at this time? Mr. Eby. MR. DIGREGORIO: Is the governor MR. EBY: I know we are going to 3 3 going to mandate a raise? 4 go line-by-line but can we ask for points of 4 MS. GAGLIANO: The governor has, 5 clarification just because I think it will help us 5 within his budget, he has proposed an increase of 6 in our thought process over the next couple of days 6 1 1/2 percent and the BEP has generated a dollar 7 7 if that's possible. amount equal to that, Unfortunately, the difference 8 When you talk about the health 8 between the actual cost to give that raise to the 9 insurance increase of 7% and it also says that the 9 people and what is being generated in the BEP is employees will have to pick up any additional 10 significantly different. The BEP generated 142,000 10 11 out-of-pocket expenses. And we also talk about 11 and the cost would be 541,000. So the one thing there is no money In there for raises, just the step 12 12 that is very different this year is that in the past 13 change. What percent of our employees will get a 13 the state required that any money that was generated 14 step versus what percent don't get a step? That's 14 to go towards a raise must go towards a raise. This something I'd like for you to bring back. 15 15 is the first year that they have lifted that 16 DR. SMALLRIDGE: We will get that 16 requirement. The only requirement is that the money 17 information. 17 be spent in the area of instruction. And when I 18 MR. EBY: Because the percent of 18 spoke with the fiscal consultant or the head of the people that don't get a step, they are not only not 19 fiscal at the state, she said that what that meant 19 20 getting a step, they are going backwards. So that 20 was it could be used to off-set additional staff 21 would be helpful. I have other questions. I mean, 21 that are needed or medical health insurance 22 my question is where is the good news. 22 increases, that kind of thing, as long as it -- and 23 MS. GAGLIANO: If you have 23 we definitely have that much of an increase in both

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of those areas. So that is the only new

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anything else like that that I can prepare and have

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     stipulation. I'm guessing that many districts are
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                                                                                        MS. AGLE: On the special ed
     struggling with the same thing we are.
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                       DR. SMALLRIDGE: I just wanted to
                                                                      funding, does the state require us, or federal
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     add that even though that money salary increase was
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                                                                      government either one, require us to provide the
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     part of the BEP supposedly, along with some
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                                                                      allowed to count that funding as part of our
     additional capital money, we are getting $122,000
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     less, even though those initiatives are included, we
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                                                                      maintenance of effort?
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     are getting 122,000 less than we got this year.
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                                                                                        DR. HENDERSON: The feds do not
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                       MR. EBY: Why is that, Dr.
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                                                                      recognize our gifted kids, just the state. Even
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     Smallridge? I know the formula...
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                                                                      when we have had reports to send in we have to pull
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                       DR. SMALLRIDGE: Well, I think one
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                                                                      those numbers out and any dollars that are connected
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                                                                      to that with like gifted teachers' salaries, and so
     of the things is we have had in the past a state --
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     what's the word?
                                                                      forth. So like Ms. Richter said, that was a state
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                       MS. GAGLIANO: Stability.
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                                                                      initiative to include those kids in there and now
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                       DR. SMALLRIDGE: Stability
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                                                                      they are taking it back.
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     initiative. For three years you are allowed a
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                                                                                        MS. AGLE: But is it a state
     stability clause that says you won't get less than
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                                                                      requirement that we provide those services?
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     you got the previous year. We have been through our
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                                                                                        MR. JARNIGAN: It is a state
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     three years with that so this year we got a
                                                                      requirement that we provide the services. As Ms.
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                                                                      Richter mentioned, I would have to research to see
     reduction. And part of it may relate to some
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     changes in student enrollment or shifts and changes
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                                                                      how many years back that goes. But the two
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     in student enrollment.
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                                                                      different categories that the state has as special
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                       MS. GAGLIANO: Those two items as
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                                                                      education categories that the federal government
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                                                                      doesn't have and one of those is intellectually
     well as there was a shift in, we've mentioned it
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2 in the accounting for special education gifted 3 students. So the revenue that's generated per pupil 4 is a little higher for special ed students than 5 regular ed students. So those of a hundred or so students were shifted from special to regular so 6 7 that was part of it as well. 8 CHAIRMAN FILLAUER: I think Ms. 9 Richter was next. 10 MS. RICHTER: I have to shake my 11 head about that since the state is the one who 12 included those gifted students forever in that kind 13 of funding to just pull the rug out from under us 14 this year is unbelievable but that's not my 15 question. My question was what did you use to derive your expectations for the local option sales 16 17 tax collection? 18 MS. GAGLIANO: Both the property 19 tax and the sales tax estimates are based on what I 20 believe we will receive in the year we are in. And 21 because it's such a bleak forecast I'm not brave 22 enough to add anything to it at this point. I'm 23 hoping we even end up the year with what I'm hoping

briefly in the slide presentation, there was a shift

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we get for this year.

2 identified in that category. The other is a very small group of kids and it's a category called 3 functionally delayed. Neither of those are federal 4 5 definitions within the IDEA. What has changed, we 6 are told from the state, has been the federal 7 acceptance of including those students within our 8 special ed allocation of funds. It's basically if 9 you want to provide those services as a state they 10 are saying we can't count that within the monies that we say that we provide each year for special 11 12 education services. So it's still a state mandate that we provide those services, we just can't count 13 14 them within the funds or the amount of money that we 15 spend on those services as services that we provide 16 for special ed students. I've got actually a 17 handout that I can give you, that information came 18 very late this Spring, I think toward the end of 19 April. We had, I had heard some rumors that that 20 might happen around the first of the year in January and it didn't arrive until just a few weeks ago. 21 22 MR. EBY: Dr. Smallridge, I also

noted that you are eliminating something like a net

17 teaching positions, if I read this correctly.

gifted which we have I think about 243 students

1	What portion, if you know, of those would be coming
2	from retirements, etcetera versus justdo you know
3	any of that yet?
4	DR. SMALLRIDGE: We looked at that
5	very carefully. In five cases, I believe it was
6	five cases, people would be losing their positions.
7	The rest of them would come from retirements or
8	people leaving for whatever reason.
9	MR. EBY: Do you have any idea?
10	DR. SMALLRIDGE: I'm sorry, may be
11	six, I'm being corrected. It may be six, Mr. Eby.
12	MR. EBY: I'd like to know when
13	the last time was that we had a force
14	DR. SMALLRIDGE: Reduction?
15	MR. EBY: Yeah, a reduction.
16	Where it wasn't handled by attrition.
17	CHAIRMAN FILLAUER: Mr.
18	DiGregorio.
19	MR. DIGREGORIO: Are we going to
20	get into the level where we find out what the
21	positions are that are being lost?
22	CHAIRMAN FILLAUER: We will do
23	that tomorrow when we do line item by line item.
24	MR. DIGREGORIO: I got that 7.72
27	Pilk, DIGREGORIO. I got that 7.72
1	27
1	teaching positions and I'd like to know what we are
2	losing.
3	DR. SMALLRIDGE: Okay. I think
4 5	there is some more detail in your budget but we will
	supply that on a separate sheet.
6	MR. DIGREGORIO: I haven't gone
7	through that part yet. I'm scared.
8	CHAIRMAN FILLAUER: Anyone else?
9	I'd like to remind everyone we
10	will meet again tomorrow at 5:30 and we will begin
11	line item by line item review of the budget. I'd
12	like to thank the mayor and city manager and
13	Councilman Hope and Chamber President Parker Hardy
14	for being in the audience tonight. And welcome one
15	of our former administrators, Dr. Bill Burris also
16	here. Thank you for being here.
17	The City Council will be meeting
18	tonight at 7:00 with their first reading of the
19	City's budget.
20	We are adjourned.
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6	Oak Ridge Board of Education
7	W. Keys Fillauer, Chairman
8	
9	2110 11 (10011)
10	On last Smallrify (by Dr. Brue broken)
11	Interim Superintendent, Oak Ridge Schools
12	Dr. Bob Smallridge, Ed.D.
13	
14	
15 16	6/24/13
17	Date Approved
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23	

CERTIFICATE

I, Joan S. Roberts, Notary Public at Large for the State of Tennessee, and Licensed Court Reporter do hereby acknowledge that the foregoing 28 pages are a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this cause on the 13th day of May, 2013.

This the 3rd day of June, 2013.

Joan S. Roberts, Court Reporter