

**ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**Meeting Date:** April 28, 2014

**AGENDA ITEM No.** 14-04-(2)-06

**ACTION ITEM: (Y/N)** Y

**SUBJECT:** 2014-2015 Local Current Expense Budget

**INFO. CONTACT:** Dr. Gerri P. Martín, Superintendent/Donna Brinkley **PHONE:** 919-732-8126

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Local Current Expense Proposed Budget Document
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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Board of Education the opportunity to approve the local current expense proposed budget.

**BACKGROUND:** On March 24, 2014 the Superintendent presented a recommended budget for Board of Education consideration. The Superintendent's recommended local budget requested an increase of \$175 per pupil appropriation from \$3269 to \$3444. Based on a county projected enrollment of 7576 students, the total requested appropriation was \$26,660,004. With increased enrollment of 75 students and adjustments for out-of-district and charter school students, the overall appropriation would have increased by \$1,599,850. Staff requested nine expansion items in the recommended budget.

On April 7, 2014 the district received the projected enrollment from NCDPI which indicated that Orange County Schools is projected to have 197 more students in 2014-2015. As such, district staff reconfigured the budget using the updated enrolled projected numbers.

On April 14, 2014 the Superintendent presented the budget for the Public Hearing and for the Board work session. Based on the revised county projected enrollment of 7698 students, the total requested appropriation was \$27,080,172. With the increased enrollment of 197 students and adjustments for out-of-state and charter school students, the overall appropriation would increase by \$2,020,018.

Topics discussed during the work session included the Board's priorities, the mandated budget drivers including the Governor's proposed pay raises and other anticipated increases in salaries and the impact on Orange County Schools as well as increases to insurance and benefits. The Board directed staff to incur fund balance to begin addressing the deferred maintenance and safety needs of the district. The Board also directed staff to change the recommended request of a contracted math specialist to a full time position, to change the recommended request for one literacy specialist to share at OHS and CRHS to two literacy specialists so that each school will have a full time position, to include funding for expanded free breakfast, addressing salary compression, and providing dental and vision benefits for staff.

Based on Board priorities, the 2014-2015 Local Current Expense Budget total requested appropriation is \$27,929,376. This appropriation includes an increase of \$283 per pupil for an overall increase from the 2013-2014 appropriation of \$2,869,222.

Staff has developed this recommended budget to represent the Board's direction for the Board's consideration and subsequent approval. Business cases have been developed and are contained herein to support each of the expansion items.

Summary - Orange County Schools continues to provide excellent educational opportunities for all students. Such education has an important and identifiable impact on the economic well-being of the county at large. This recommended budget focuses on areas of priority to continue this tradition of excellence. Classroom instruction and student achievement are at the forefront of the budget discussions. Student and staff health and safety are of utmost significance and thus reflected in the budget as well.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Financial impact for this agenda item will be dependent upon the ultimate approval by the Board.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education discuss and approve the 2014-2015 Local Current Expense Budget.