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School board tentatively approves budget

State funding up in the air

By Sara Cunningham • scunningham@courier-journal.com • June 2, 2010

Oldham County school board members approved a tentative budget during their meeting May 24 that was more tentative than usual.

The \$109 million budget was the equivalent of an educated guess because it was approved on a day state legislators were in a special session called because they failed to pass a budget during their regular session.

Without a state budget, Oldham school officials and board members aren't sure how much money they will have for the next year, but they had to submit a tentative budget anyway, said Chuck Litrell, the district's finance officer and treasurer. By law, districts must submit a tentative budget by the end of May and a working budget later in September.

The district formulated its tentative budget based on last year's numbers, with few changes, Litrell said. Last year's working budget was just under \$103 million, and this next year's expenditures are expected to stay about the same, but the district is expecting to receive more than \$5 million in federal stimulus funding, Litrell said.

One difference between last year's and this year's tentative budget is that the district has not decided on raises for personnel, he

said.

"The board will have to meet again after the special session because there are just a lot of decisions that they can't make yet," Litrell said. "There will likely be changes, and this tentative budget should be viewed with professional skepticism. That skepticism will disappear once we have some answers from the state."

Reporter Sara Cunningham can be reached at (502) 582-4335.

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