

**District Budget Hearing
School District of Webster
September 22, 2025**

Board Members Present: Chaz Heinz, Terry Larsen, Kim Johnson, Pamela Peterson, Katie Smith, Galina Werdier and Jerry Metcalf

Webster School District Staff and Community Members Present: Joshua Hetfeld, Crystal Houman, Jessica Jaskolka, Cassi Hulleman, Ruben Ruiz, Pete Schroeder, Ron Stelson, Ashley Nagel, Erin Voglund, Ryan Wolf, Leandra Koerper, Greg Marsten, and Sarah Radomsky.

President Chaz Heinz called the Budget Hearing to order at 5:00 pm.

Joshua Hetfeld, District Administrator, welcomed those in attendance and provided a brief overview of the District's achievements during the 2024–2025 school year. He also introduced the District's strategic planning initiative and encouraged community members to complete the strategic planning survey.

Mr. Hetfeld presented an overview of the District's current budget, including student enrollment figures, the fund balance, and the tax levy/mill rate. He introduced District Accountant, Crystal Houman, to review the 2024–2025 year-end budget.

Ms. Houman reported that the District ended the 2024–2025 school year with a fund balance of \$3,128,080. She provided a summary of the District's fund categories and noted several financial challenges that contributed to unforeseen expenditure increases.

At last year's Annual Meeting, the District proposed a Fund 10 deficit budget. The year ended with a decrease of \$478,186, reflecting an increase in expenditures of approximately \$106,000 over the prior year. Key drivers included higher HRA and benefit costs, renewal of the District's Chromebook lease, and increased operational expenses. In addition, the District purchased land bordering the north side of the 5-12 building for school forest exploration and possible future expansion.

Revenue was further impacted by declining enrollment and the elimination of State High Poverty Aid.

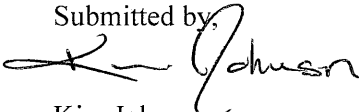
Ms. Houman reported that the District's ending fund balance is approximately 31%, which remains adequate by comparison standards, though it has declined from about 48% six years ago.

Mr. Hetfeld concluded the hearing by presenting the proposed 2025–2026 budget, which projects a deficit of \$661,000. He emphasized that the Board is addressing ongoing deficit spending through the strategic planning process and by exploring multiple options, including the possibility of an operational referendum. He reaffirmed the District's commitment to maintaining quality programming and staffing to provide an excellent education for all students.

Motion by Pamela Peterson/Katie Smith to accept the 2025-2026 proposed budget as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Terry Larsen/Katie Smith to adjourn to the Annual Meeting at 5:20 pm. Motion carried.

Submitted by:



Kim Johnson
Board Clerk