

Approved School Board Budget Priorities

December 12, 2011

College & Career Ready: I believe that we need to prioritize the resources, supports and course offerings that have the closest connection to our District goal of students being college and career ready. They should be aligned to the core college admissions and graduation requirements and clearly explained to students, parents and other school stakeholders.

Equity: I believe we need to prioritize schools receiving equitable resources, which would include differentiating dollars beyond a common base level to areas in the district in need of the most support as determined by academic achievement for the purpose of reducing the achievement gap and providing educational opportunities and academic success for all students.

Individual Student Achievement: I believe we need to prioritize high levels of instruction by ensuring teachers have the appropriate supports, tools and time for purposeful collaboration to focus their efforts on individualizing education (interventions, accelerations, special needs, TAG, etc.) instruction and the Professional Learning Model referred to in our Strategic Plan.

Instruction/Class Size: I believe we need to prioritize class size, starting with the primary grades and investing in early childhood partnerships. We should consider class size in middle and high schools that facilitates student learning in core content areas that we can sustainably afford.

Technology: I believe that our technology priorities, in order, should be: 1) ensuring a secure district-wide infrastructure that protects and serves our students, staff and their confidential information, 2) integrating proven technology tools into classroom instruction when it will improve individual student achievement; and 3) enhancing parent involvement in student achievement with an easy to use tool that communicates the level of academic progress of students.

School Board Budget Questions

Questions	Strategies to Respond Note: All questions will be part of a Q & A on the District website
<p>While the Board has expressed very strong support for options programs, including transportation for the options programs to help promote access and equity, there is widespread confusion about the costs/tradeoffs for options programs. The Board needs accurate data to explain the cost of options programs to the community.</p> <p>Is it possible to charge extra to those in the Options programs?</p>	Board Report
<p>BSD says it has reduced budgets by \$105 million over four years. What is the actual nominal dollar value of the last five budgets? Does it reconcile with that reduction?</p>	Teaching Session
<p>Do enrollment projections at any of the schools suggest needs/opportunities for realigning boundaries? Is there data that suggest any schools could be closed for savings?</p>	Board report
<p>What are the "have to's" based on state and federal requirements? Are there any mandates that don't make sense anymore that we could engage our legislators to help change?</p>	Teaching Sessions
<p>How do we engage our community to do things we can no longer afford to do with District funds?</p>	Board reports and CEC Quarterly Meetings
<p>Are there any mandates looming in the near future that we will be wrestling with in the next year or two if we eliminate the building block now – will it be impossible to meet later?</p>	Board Reports and Teaching Sessions
<p>What impact do PERS and employee agreements have on the budget? How would PERS and benefits compare to private business?</p>	Teaching Sessions
<p>Is there equality with ELL and Special ED between Options and traditional Middle Schools? Are funds based directly on student numbers and need or by school?</p>	Mini-Budget Session - addressed at November board meeting

There is one outstanding question from Tom. Claire has emailed him for clarification:
The equity statement implies a lower "base level" of funding. In percentage terms, what is the range of the "base level" relative to today's current student funding? Is it 90% + ? 50%? Something in between?