

CRETE-MONEE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Committee of the Whole Meeting – October 13, 2026

Discussion regarding consulting services with District Management Group (DMGroup) for an Initiatives Inventory and Staffing Assessment.

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The Issue:

Crete-Monee CUSD 201-U recently adopted an operating budget for FY27 featuring an operating deficit of \$5,399,413. Given the District's limited capacity to increase tax revenues and expenditure growth rates that generally exceed the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Administration recommends exploring strategic consulting services to optimize resource allocation, identify cost savings, and improve operational efficiency.

District Management Group (DMGroup) has presented a proposal to conduct a combined District-wide Initiatives Inventory (PRISM) and Staffing Assessment.

Justification:

Over time, school districts continuously add programs, interventions, and staffing positions to address complex student needs without fully evaluating their ongoing academic return on investment (A-ROI) or long-term financial sustainability.

Engaging DMGroup will provide an objective, data-driven review of all District initiatives and staffing structures compared to regional and national benchmarks. Furthermore, DMGroup provides a contractual guarantee to identify potential cost savings valued at least five times (5X) the cost of the Initiative Inventory service (\$875,000 in potential savings against a \$175,000 service cost), directly supporting deficit reduction efforts.

Board Policy and Past Practices:

It is the policy and practice of the Board of Education to investigate, discuss, and evaluate professional services and strategic management contracts that impact the long-term financial stability of the District.

Strategic Plan:

- **Goal #6:** Prioritize our financial resources to meet our short and long term goals.

Community Impact:

Conducting a comprehensive audit of District programs and staffing ensures that taxpayer

dollars are directed efficiently toward high-impact academic initiatives that directly benefit students, while systematically eliminating redundant or underperforming expenses.

Supporting Data:

DMGroup's PRISM framework combines qualitative and quantitative analysis over a 5 to 6-month timeline. The proposed scope and fee structure are as follows:

1. **Initiatives Inventory (PRISM):** Cataloging and evaluating all District programs for cost, strategic alignment, and measurable student impact.
2. **Staffing Assessment:** Benchmarking internal staffing levels (administrative, instructional, and support) against state and national peer norms to align staffing with enrollment and student need.

Service Fee Breakdown:

Service Component	Cost / Value
Standalone Initiative Inventory	\$175,000
Standalone Staffing Assessment	\$110,000
<i>Combined Standalone Value</i>	<i>\$285,000</i>
Combined Discounted Package Price	\$270,000
Guaranteed Identified Savings (5X ROI on Inventory)	\$875,000 (Min.)

Financial Impact:

The total cost for the combined consulting engagement is \$270,000, representing a \$15,000 savings compared to purchasing the services individually. This expenditure will be funded through the Education Fund. The guaranteed minimum identified savings of \$875,000 will provide actionable opportunities to reduce the current \$5,399,413 operating deficit in subsequent budget cycles.

Recommendation:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education review and discuss the proposed consulting proposal from District Management Group (DMGroup) in preparation for potential

approval at an upcoming regular Board meeting.