

MISD Board Communicator
February 27, 2012

Manistee ISD will provide services that will improve teaching and learning

- Kay and Kim are doing a dynamite job in our General Education Department. And, this year with part-time assistance from Dency Lippert and Cheryl Matson we have been really helping our local district address curriculum needs. The challenge is that our general education budget may not be able to continue providing this level of service based on projected revenue.

Manistee ISD will provide services to assist local districts to comply with local, state and federal mandates

- SB619 (Cyber Schools). This bill continues to be debated in the House. We look for it to pass allowing up to 15 schools statewide in the next year that are strictly cyber schools, with that cap expanding in the future. Right now the vote appears to be fairly evenly split among House members. We should be seeing action on this bill within the next ten days.
- State funding for our schools is problematic. The governor's budget calls for the foundation grant to stay the same as it was last year (\$ 6,846) which is still \$29 lower than it was in 2005. Additional funding could be available to schools who meet certain performance levels for students, for schools who have adopted a number of best practices, and for schools to help offset the cost of the Michigan Public Schools Retirement System (MPERS).

The problem is that even with these additions, due to loss in other categorical funding and declining enrollment, our schools are set to face a deficit budget ranging between \$138 per student to \$1,777 per student.

- ISD's, under the governor's budget would also have to meet certain best practices to get the same level of funding as last year. Without meeting those best practices (a service consolidation plan, competitive bids on non-instructional services, technology plans for constituent districts, a dashboard/report card, and working as a consortium of ISD's on information management systems) we would be subject to losing 5% of this categorical.

Manistee ISD will provide services to improve the quality, enhance efficiency, and foster cooperation and collaboration in our Educational service area

- Looking closer at fees being charged by townships, we have decided not to implement summer tax collections across the ISD.
- We have another local school board meeting on Tuesday night beginning at 7 pm at the ISD. We plan to show how the governor's budget could impact schools.

We will be discussing options that schools could consider and we will have a work session for shared ideas.

Other Items

- We have scheduled a closed meeting this month to discuss negotiations. We need to discuss accepting the Hard Cap which in five years is estimated by SET/SEG to increase 3.74 % per year to \$17,373 or move to the 80/20 insurance split which is estimated to increase 9% per year to \$21,793. We would expect negotiations to begin sometime before the end of March.
- Our rescheduled committee meeting of the WMISD/MISD Dual Superintendent Committee will take place immediately after our February Board meeting. We have some interesting data on the number of common meetings from the last quarter of the year.
- Attached is a new Superintendents evaluation process that incorporates new state requirements. Your superintendent will be using a similar format for evaluation of our administrative team.

As always, feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns. See you Monday late afternoon. - Scott

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