



**Board Meeting Date:** 12/2/2024

**Title:** Proposed Revised Budget Reduction – Reallocation – Revenue Generation (BRRRG) Process

**Type:** Discussion

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Stacie Stanley, Superintendent

**Description:** Each year, the Edina Public Schools District seeks input from stakeholders on our budget plans. In the past, we have hosted community information nights, held virtual sessions, and issued surveys to garner feedback. However, we have had low participation rates.

Administration proposes the following enhanced process for the FY 2027 BRRRG process (*based on financial forecast a formal BRRRG for FY 26 will not be required*) to implement new ways of engaging the community with the goals of:

**Recommendation:** No recommendation is needed.

**Desired Outcomes from the Board:** Review the information and be prepared to share initial reactions

**Attachments:** None

**Proposed Revised Budget Reduction – Reallocation – Revenue Generation process**

Each year, the Edina Public Schools District seeks input from stakeholders on our budget plans. In the past, we have hosted community information nights, held virtual sessions, and issued surveys to garner feedback. However, we have had low participation rates.

Administration proposes the following enhanced process for the FY 2027 BRRRG process (*based on financial forecast a formal BRRRG for FY 26 will not be required*) to implement new ways of engaging the community with the goals of:

1. Increasing the overall understanding of school finance, and
2. Soliciting reactions to our budget recommendations.

**EPS Budget Community Engagement task force:** The new plan would seek to recruit 50-70 community members to join a budget community engagement task force.

- Taskforce members will work in consistent small groups of 5-7 members to ensure strong engagement and multiple perspectives are garnered.

- An accordion process will be used between small groups and whole groups to ensure the expertise in the room is leveraged in a strategic manner.
- Concerted effort will be made to recruit stakeholders representative of our student community.
- Membership will include staff, parents/guardians, students, board finance committee members, community members, business leaders, and administration.
- There will be a strong interest for members with experience in finance, school finance, data analysis, problem-solving, and communications.

**Task force members will:**

- Commit to up to 5 meetings from January through June of 2025
- Participate in school finance 101 training:
  - **Edina Public Schools Strategic Priority D** – Develop leadership Throughout the District *seeks to continuously develop innovative, committed, and exemplary leadership at all levels and from all constituencies, student and adult.*
  - The goal of this step is to develop a greater understanding of school finance amongst our stakeholders, while building a cadre of community leaders who are able to effectively and accurately communicate information about the status of the school district’s financial position.
- Review and analyze the forecasted budget and develop a set of option BRRRG items.
  - **Edina Public Schools Strategic Priority E** – Engage Parents, Schools and Community to work in partnership with parents, students, staff, alumni and community to serve as a reflection of Edina’s strong commitment to education. With an emphasis on E.5 *Ensure strong financial stewardship and provide information that is accessible to all members of our community and promotes the value of an education.*
  - An outcome of this step will be a set of BRRRG options that can be more deeply analyzed for viability. In addition, options will also be vetted by a greater set of EPS stakeholders.
- Engage in training on a presentation to share with neighbors at events that they host in their local setting. The task force member will collect guests’ reactions and share them with the task force at a spring meeting.
  - **Edina Public Schools Strategic Priority D** – Develop leadership Throughout the District *seeks to continuously develop innovative, committed, and exemplary leadership at all levels and from all constituencies, student and adult.* The goal of this step is to engage the perspectives of more Edina Public Schools stakeholders
  - **Edina Public Schools Strategic Priority E** – Engage Parents, Schools and Community to work in partnership with parents, students, staff, alumni and community to serve as a reflection of Edina’s strong commitment to education. With an emphasis on E.4 *Leverage partnerships with community groups, businesses, local and state government agencies, and individuals to strengthen and foster relationships with EPS.*
  - The outcome of this step will be to gather greater input on the set of proposed options that were developed by the taskforce.

Month/Year	Focus/Tasks
October -November 2024	Design process and garner initial community feedback
December 2024	Proposed process to school board  Taskforce Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Interest Form Disseminated</li> <li>- Taskforce Member Selection</li> <li>- Develop Communications Plan</li> </ul>
January 2025	Notify Members of selection with dates and locations of meeting  Staff Meetings held at each building
February 2025 (Meeting 6-8 PM)	School Finance 101  Staff Meetings held at each building
March 2025 (Meeting 6-8 PM)	School Finance Budgeting & BRRRG Options  School Board Update at Work Session
April 2025	Community Meetings & greater stakeholder feedback on options  Stakeholder Survey to garner feedback on Options
May 2025	Board Discussion to report feedback
June 2025	Taskforce Recognition and Adjournment
July 2025	Yearly audit begins
August 2025	School Board Discussion on Options
September through November 2025	Administration final BRRRG recommendations & School Board decision

## Initial Feedback/Reactions Received: N = 31

### Common ground & Differences

Participants have expressed differing opinions on the size and structure of the task force, as well as the approach to community engagement and participation. However, there is a common ground that can help bridge these differences.

Side A	Common ground	Side B
<b>Task Force Size and Structure</b>	<b>Effective Community Engagement</b>	<b>Community Engagement and Participation</b>
Many participants feel that a task force of 50-70 members is too large to manage effectively. They suggest that smaller, more targeted groups could be more productive and easier to organize. Some participants propose splitting the larger group into smaller sub-groups to facilitate discussions and brainstorming.	Both sides agree on the importance of effective community engagement. They believe that providing specific options for the community to vote on, rather than open-ended discussions, could increase engagement and make the process more efficient. Clear communication and structured feedback mechanisms are also seen as crucial for success.	Participants emphasize the need for increased community engagement and participation. They suggest that providing specific options for the community to vote on, rather than open-ended discussions, could increase engagement. They also highlight the importance of involving community members with strong connections to spread the word and increase participation.

**Overall summary:** While there are differing opinions on the size and structure of the task force and the approach to community engagement, both sides agree on the importance of effective community engagement. By focusing on providing specific options for the community to vote on, clear communication, and structured feedback mechanisms, it is possible to bridge the gap between these differing viewpoints and create a more effective and inclusive process.