

School Board Meeting:

July 14, 2009

Subject:

Stimulus Funding

- Title I
- Special Education

Presenter:

Jim Bauck, Pam Miller

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

This report will be presented at the July 14, 2009 Meeting.

DESCRIPTION:

At the June 9th work session, Chuck Klaassen reviewed the various aspects of the federal stimulus funds. Title I and special education are two areas the district will have limited prerogative in determining expenditures. Pam Miller provided an over view of the Title I funds and Judy Coley did likewise for the special education funds. The school board requested a follow up report regarding intended expenditures for both areas.

Title I

The Title I Part A ARRA Stimulus funds allocation amount is \$224,540. These funds will be utilized in three major ways for our district:

Focus Area #1: Required 10% AYP Set-Aside

The required 10% AYP set aside will be used to support additional professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers in improving instruction in reading and math for at-risk learners. The two main training opportunities the AYP set-aside will be used for is RtI training at the secondary schools, and time for teachers to analyze classroom achievement data and plan instructional interventions based on the findings of their data.

Focus Area #2: K-8 Reading and Math Intervention Specialist

Close to half of the Title I Stimulus funds will be utilized to fund a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) to work as a Reading and Math Intervention Specialist in the Title I buildings. This is a new two-year position for our district. The main role of the intervention specialist will be to provide leadership in Response to Intervention activities and training; research evidence-based materials and instructional strategies in reading and math; and train and coach teachers in tiered interventions appropriate for improving specific reading and math skills of students.

Focus Area #3: Additional Title I Staff

A smaller portion of the Title I Stimulus funds will also allow for additional Title I staff to improve and strengthen the Title I Extended Day Kindergarten program. Specifically, the additional staff provided through stimulus funding will improve the transition for students and parents into the Extended Day Kindergarten program.

None of the above opportunities would be possible within the district's general fund or within the district's regular Title I allocation.

Special Education

Judy Coley reviewed the June school board workshop materials (attachment - Stimulus Funds June 2009) with the administrative team on June 11th. Based on input from the meeting, a task force was formed to formulate a draft expenditure plan. Administrators who served on the task force were: Gail Feneis, John Hayden, Mark Mischke, Kim Carlson, Pam Miller, Tina Burkholder, Chuck Klaassen, and Jim Bauck. Judy chaired the task force. The list of potential expenditures reviewed by the task force actually included additional items (attachment – Stimulus Funds – Revised). In addition to the various items, the task force was unanimous in recommending the school board do the following:

- ✓ Use to the extent possible, stimulus funds to reduce the district's future Maintenance of Effort (MOE) financial obligations. This would amount to the 50% figure used by Chuck and Judy during the June 9th report. Fifty percent of the stimulus funds (about \$1.2 million), or \$600,000 would be used to reduce future MOE obligations.
- ✓ Recycle the funds used to reduce the MOE financial obligation back into the special education budget. However, there were differing opinions if any of the funds used to reduce MOE should be allowed for use of non-special education expenditures.
- ✓ Use the full 15% of special education stimulus funds allowable under law for early intervention services. This recommendation was made in full knowledge that the use of 15% of the stimulus funds would reduce the MOE opportunity from a 50% to 35% reduction potential.

After the task force met, Judy Coley and Jim Bauck met to review the list one final time in advance of Judy's departure from the district. A couple of items were slightly adjusted as a result of this meeting to include an additional funding area titled "general fund expenditures" (attachment – Stimulus Funds Recommendation).

The proposed "general fund expenditures" area will help the general fund by picking up costs (employee benefits) for special education staff currently not reimbursable by special education revenue. While the entire 35% MOE reduction (approximately \$427,000) could be used in such a manner, the suggested amount on the draft expenditures is \$100,000 each of the two years. Obviously, given the district's financial condition, it is tempting to draw on more of these funds and the school board can make such a decision.

After receiving feedback from the school board Tuesday night, a final expenditure plan will be developed by the task force and implemented.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Stimulus Funds June 2009
Stimulus Funds Revised
Stimulus Funds recommendation