



Gregory-Portland Independent School District

BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: DR. MICHELLE CAVAZOS

FROM: DR. ISMAEL GONZALEZ III

CC: BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CRYSTAL MATERN
DEBORAH GARZA
MICHAEL THIEME
DR. MICHAEL NORRIS
PENNY ARMSTRONG

DATE: Monday, February 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Budget Workshop #1 for 2025-2026 School Year

PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1: EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE

- 1.1 Annually increase performance in reading for all students and all student groups
- 1.2 Annually increase performance in math for all students and all student groups
- 1.3 Annually increase performance in College; Career; and Military Readiness for all students and all student groups
- 1.4 Annually increase student engagement for all students and all student groups
- 1.5 Annually increase the percentage of students who feel safe at school

PRIORITY 2: HIGH PERFORMING AND ENGAGED WORKFORCE

- 2.1 Annually increase the percentage of staff satisfaction
- 2.2 Annually increase the retention rate of highly effective faculty and staff

PRIORITY 3: QUALITY SERVICE AND IMPACTFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 3.1 Annually increase the percentage of student satisfaction
- 3.2 Annually increase the percentage of parent/family satisfaction and engagement
- 3.3 Annually increase the percentage of community satisfaction and engagement

PRIORITY 4: EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE DISTRICT AND CAMPUS OPERATIONS

- 4.1 Annually improve operational processes
- 4.2 Maintain fiscal viability; stewardship; and improve staff knowledge of sustainable budgeting processes
- 4.3 Ensure strategic alignment of resources
- 4.4 Annually improve safety and security

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Type: Report

In Texas, budget workshops with the board of trustees and administration are critical for ensuring transparency, collaboration, and accountability in the development of a public-school district's annual fiscal year budget. These workshops serve as a platform for key stakeholders to review, discuss, and make decisions about the financial resources available for the district's operations, programs, and services. The purpose is to align the district's financial priorities with its educational goals while adhering to legal and financial constraints.

Purpose of Budget Workshops:

1. **Transparency and Accountability:** Budget workshops provide an opportunity for the public and board members to understand how funds are allocated and spent, ensuring that the district operates in a fiscally responsible manner.
2. **Collaboration:** The workshops allow the administration to present budget proposals and discuss funding needs with the board. It fosters a dialogue between decision-makers, ensuring all perspectives are considered before finalizing the budget.
3. **Prioritization of Needs:** School districts face limited financial resources, so these workshops help prioritize programs and services, such as teacher salaries, classroom resources, and extracurricular activities, while ensuring compliance with legal requirements.
4. **Long-term Planning:** The budget workshops serve as a forum for discussing long-term financial planning, capital projects, and sustainability, ensuring that the district can maintain its operations and growth over time.

Major Components Discussed:

1. **Revenue Sources:** The administration presents the district's revenue projections, which typically include local property taxes, state funding, federal funds, and other revenue streams. The board reviews how these sources will impact the overall budget.
2. **Expenditure Priorities:** A significant portion of the discussion focuses on the allocation of funds across various district needs, including instructional programs, special education, transportation, facilities maintenance, and administrative costs. Staffing and compensation often dominate these discussions.
3. **State Funding and Mandates:** Texas public schools are heavily reliant on state funding, and workshops often address changes in state funding formulas, mandates, and requirements for compliance with the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
4. **Fund Balances and Reserves:** The district's current fund balance (savings) and reserve policies are reviewed to ensure fiscal stability and that the district can respond to unexpected costs or budget shortfalls.
5. **Capital Projects:** Discussions may include plans for school construction, renovations, and major purchases. This could involve evaluating bond elections, facility needs, and deferred maintenance.