

# Onekama approves amended budget at board meeting

By JOHN COUNTS  
STAFF WRITER

**ONEKAMA** — The Onekama Consolidated Schools Board of Education approved an amended budget at its regular meeting Monday.

The estimated deficit is \$183,046. But this isn't a startling number to officials.

"It's right on from what we had projected," said Kris

Mauntler, director of finance for the Manistee Intermediate School District. "There's no real changes or surprises."

The district was able to recall staff due to staff concessions and it did receive more state funding from an increase in student counts, which is at 413, and because the district has followed the state's "best practices."

That has brought in about \$80,000 that might not be there

next year, according to Mauntler.

The district's estimated ending fund balance is \$566,936. Its unreserved fund balance is \$416,166.

"Overall, our expenditures over revenue are consistent with the opening budget," Mauntler said.

In two other related resolutions, the board also approved the Leaps and Bounds fund budget and the food service fund

budget.

The board also discussed changes in the terms of school board members.

School board elections will now take place in November, which not only changes when voters take to the polls, but also when candidates have to file.

"It will be the same criteria, just at a different time," said superintendent Kevin Hughes, who estimated the filing deadline

to be around August.

Another aspect of the new way school boards are being elected is the length of the terms. Onekama and other districts will have to decide whether they want six-year or four-year terms.

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If the board was in the midst of grappling with a large issue, incoming members could affect its outcome.

The new law comes out of Lansing. The elections will take place in November and board members will assume their positions at the end of December. The organizational meeting where officers are elected would take place in January.

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**KEVIN HUGHES,**

**SUPERINTENDENT, ONEKAMA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS**

"The only strange thing is ... you'll be a board member on a budget that was put in by a (different board)," Hughes said.

The board has to make a decision on the length of

the terms by July. The board discussed the issue at their regular meeting in December and is leaning toward keeping the four-year terms, in which case they won't have to take any action.