

Budget Committee Considerations for June 2, 2020 Budget Committee Meeting

Madam Superintendent,

Good evening. Attached you will find questions that I find are of great importance for the Budget Committee to have responses to the next time it convenes. I think you would agree the information that was presented at the previous Budget Committee meeting was of great significance. As Chairperson of the Budget Committee, I am requesting that any findings regarding deficit reduction, cost savings or revenue producing results due to the submission of these questions not be incorporated into any staff driven proposed budget until the Budget Committee and, ultimately the Board of Trustees, has had the opportunity to provide direction regarding the proposed budget. Since little time remains before the budget is approved, I am requesting that these questions be answered as thoroughly and complete as possible.

In the unlikely event that the staff is unable to provide the information requested, please advise me as soon as possible. Thank you for your support and thank you for your service to SSAISD.

Best Regards,

Gilbert F. Rodriguez

1. The state revenue reduction for loss of student enrollment in the Fall semester was approx. \$2.2M. Assuming the state revenue reduction for the Spring semester is approx. \$1.4M, what is the best estimate for EOY balances for each function in fund 199? **Please See attached document for estimates, while keeping in mind that there are 3 full months remaining in this fiscal year.**

2. How many professional positions remained vacant during SY 2019-2020, that is, professional positions which were in the budget but were never filled? Please list these positions and what is the approx. cost savings if not filled?

School Age Parent Facilitator* 199.11.6119.54.0010.030.00 \$ 61,000

**This position works directly with students and required a sub during the school year.*

Counselor 199.31.6119.00.112.099.000 \$ 63,000

**Diagnostician 199.31.6119.00.044.023.000 50%
199.31.6119.00.113.023.000 50% \$ 63,000**

**Speech Language Pathologists 224.31.6119.00.813.023.000 \$ 64,000
224.31.6119.00.813.023.000 \$ 64,000**

CTE Coordinator 199.21.6119.00.818.022.000 \$ 92,000

Instructional Coach 211.13.6119.00.001.030.000 \$ 65,500

Lead Accountant 199.41.6119.00.726.099.000 \$ 83,000

Accountant	199.41.6119.00.726.099.000	\$ 81,500
Chief Academic Officer	199 E 21 6119 00 809 0 99 0 00	\$ 129,000
Assistant Athletic Trainer	199 E 36 6119 00 814 0 91 0 00	\$ 55,000
Chief Financial Officer	199 E 41 6119 00 726 0 99 0 00	\$ 129,000
Exec. Director Finance	199 E 41 6119 00 726 0 99 0 00	\$ 113,000
Director of Business Services	199 E 41 6119 00 726 0 99 0 00	\$ 97,000

3. What was the average student/teacher ratio, before COVID closure, at each elementary?)
See Attached Document

4. What was the average student/teacher ratio, before COVID closure, at each middle school?
See Attached Document

5. What was the average student/teacher ratio, before COVID closure, at SSHS (excluding CTE & HSA classes)? **See Attached Document**

6. As a result of the findings pertaining to student/teacher ratios as cited above, are there any potential cost savings if any provisions of the District of Innovations are applied to any of our grade levels/campuses? **The DOI plan includes a class size waiver, and references, “The addition of 1 or 2 students beyond the recommendation...” None of the other provisions offer direct, staff-related savings.**

7. Assuming that the recent staff study revealed 200 classes at SSHS with less than 15 students in what manner can we realize cost savings? How much? **SSHS runs a co-teach model with core classes having a core teacher with a SPED support teacher in the same class. There are 28 teachers who have a co-teacher in the class. This gives the appearance of reduced class size. This is similar to athletics where there are 40 students and 4 coaches so the ratio is 10:1.**

8. Did the recent staff study indicate any CTE class with low enrollment? What would constitute low class enrollment? Which classes and what was their enrollment?

If the Board approved a recommendation to eliminate these classes what would be the cost savings?

In the recent study, those classes with less than 15 students were deemed to be “under-enrolled”.

Programs of study with low enrollment include:

- **HVAC (37 students) - this program could be phased out. The current HVAC teacher is also teaching welding.**
- **Architectural Design (36 students) - Teacher is working with Kazen in 2020-21 to help build interest in the program.**
- **Business Management (47 students) - this program has shown a history of low student interest. Not offering the program would allow for the reduction of 1 teacher.**
- **Automotive technology (71 students) - currently 2 teachers, 1 teacher reduction would sustain current numbers**
- **Prin of Information Technology (515 students) and Professional Communication (407 students) courses are required by the district but not the state. 2 teacher reduction**

Stand alone courses that are good fillers include:

- **College and Career Readiness - 1 teacher**
- **Banking and Finance - 1 teacher**
- **Money Matters - 1 teacher**

We can eliminate class sections that don’t necessarily eliminate the need for positions, and there result in zero savings to the District. We would need to be very targeted in our approach to collapse positions. This might require re-training or seeking additional certification areas by current staff.

9. How many teachers or other professionals are expected to retire or resign by the deadline (sometime early summer)? If these positions were not filled what would be the cost savings?

Facilities Coordinator	199.51.6129.00.907.099.000	\$82,000
Facilities Director	199.51.6129.00.907.099.000	\$97,000
Science Teacher (West Campus)	199.11.6119.00.001.011.010	\$59,700
Art Teacher (South San HS)	199.11.6119.00.001.011.000	\$59,700

Inclusion Teacher (South San HS)	199.11.6119.00.001.023.000 87%	\$59,700
	199.11.6119.00.001.011.000 13%	
Art Teacher (Dwight MS)	199.11.6119.00.041.011.000	\$59,700
ELAR Teacher (Zamora MS)	199.11.6119.00.044.011.000	\$59,700
1st Grade (B/L Five Palms ES)	199.11.6119.00.109.011.000 50%	\$59,700
	199.11.6119.00.109.030.000 50%	
5th Grade Teacher (Carrillo ES)	199.11.6119.00.112.011.000	\$59,700
Inclusion Teacher (Athens ES)	199.11.6119.00.115.023.000	\$59,700

10. Should most students attend their attendance zone school, such as Athens, Kazen and WCHS what would be the transportation cost savings, if any?

The savings realized would be minimal. We are currently reimbursed for \$1.00 per qualifying mile via the transportation allotment.

11. What is the best estimate for the EOY fund balance for the Food Service Fund?

It is estimated that \$1.2MM will remain in Food Service Fund Balance at the close of the current fiscal year.

12. Our current balance in the Worker's Compensation Fund is approx. \$2.7+M. Our external auditors recommend that we maintain at least \$600,000 for claims. They have also recommended that we maintain at least \$1.0M for catastrophic claims. In this year's budget (SY 2019-2020), the school district did not make any individual contributions to the WCF. Should the Board, again, decide to forego individual WCF contributions in the budget for SY 2020-2021, what possibilities for potential surpluses in the WCF exist?

Our 2018-2019 audit indicates that our Worker's Compensation fund balance was \$2,544,244. Our expenditures for 2019-2020 YTD are \$257K with projected expenditures through year-end to be an additional \$76K. This would result in an year-end balance of approximately \$2.2MM. In consideration of reserving \$600K for claims and \$1MM for reserves, we would have a surplus of \$600K. This being said, with no additional funding, that \$600K would likely be needed the following budget year.

13. Can we assume that the second year of the biennium under HB 3 will be funded as approved? **All indications are that the Legislature will honor their initial appropriations.**

14. Will the Board be obligated to approve minimum pay increases under HB 3 as we were required in the first year of the biennium? In this year's budget (SY 2019-2020) how much did we approve in pay increases above the mandatory levels and/or categories as outlined in HB 3?

HB3 required that we use at least 30 percent of our gain to fund raises for teachers and full-time, non-administrative staff.

The portion of our HB3 gain to be used for this purpose was \$2.4MM.

The District increased salaries for these categories by \$2.6MM, or \$246K more than required.

15. Has the school district received its fair share of grant funds from Pre-K for SA? These funds were to be dedicated for SY 2020-2021. Although, categorical in nature, what was the approx. amount of these grant funds?

There have been no grant funds received from Pre K-4SA.

16. In each function in fund 199, what was budgeted in SY 2019-2020, for travel and subsistence, for conferences, conventions, professional development and other similar activities? Please include only those expenses for travel outside of Bexar County, to include the Board of Trustees. **See Attached Document**

17. Can the staff project what our Administrative Cost Ratio will be if announced this August 2020? Will our ratio be sufficient in order to receive a max score in that specific indicator? If not, how many positions from the appropriate functions would be overages? **The next FIRST rating that the District receives will come in late September of 2020, and will be based on the 2018-2019 Audited Financial Data.**

18. At our Budget Committee meeting on Wednesday, backup information entitled "Near-Term Capital Project Needs" was distributed. Would it possible for staff to identify these projects into the following categories: Bond type projects e.g., roofs, HVACS; Emergency projects for SY 20-21 and intermediate- needs projects.

Priority Projects:

Kindred ELEM roof(20+ yrs old)	\$1,100,000
Palo Alto ELEM roof (20+ yrs old)	\$ 800,000
Price ELEM Partial roof(23 yrs old)	\$ 650,000
Dwight MS D-Wing roof(23 yrs old)	<u>\$ 350,000</u>
	\$2,900,000

Immediate Need Projects:

Benavidez ELEM HVAC Replacement (98% units 18 yrs old)	\$1,300,000
SSAHS CTE Center roof(23 yrs old)	\$ 900,000
Shepard MS HVAC Replacement (74% units 18 yrs old)	\$ 460,000
Five Palms ELEM HVC Replacement (56% units 18 yrs old)	<u>\$ 250,000</u>
	\$2,910,000

Other Necessary Projects:

Carrillo ELEM Chiller upgrade (lack of control redundancy)	\$ 330,000
Athletic Center Chiller upgrade (lack of control redundancy)	\$ 400,000
Dwight MS chiller upgrade (lack of control redundancy)	\$ 240,000
SSAISD Athletic Center asphalt replacement	\$ 70,000
Carrillo ELEM perimeter fence project	\$ 20,000
Five Palms ELEM perimeter fence project	\$ 45,000
Price ELEM interior ceiling replacement	\$ 130,000
Kindred ELEM interior ceiling replacement	\$ 160,000
Madla ELEM interior ceiling replacement	\$ 150,000
Dwight MS interior lighting replacement	<u>\$ 20,000</u>
	\$1,565,000

TOTAL NEAR-TERM CAPITAL PROJECTS **\$7,735,000***

**The estimates provided are based on information obtained from the 2015 facility study.*

This is not an exhaustive list of all needed projects, but instead what remains from those identified in the 2015 facility study. TASB Facility Services has been retained to complete a new facility study. There was a March of 2020 start date originally scheduled, but with the onset of COVID-19, that date has been pushed back until such time that they can safely complete their assessment. In addition to assessing the condition of all facilities, they will also be reviewing the District's compliance with all ADA requirements.

19. At our Budget Committee meeting on Wednesday, backup information entitled "Funding Comparison" was distributed. As an incentive to minimize student enrollment loss, the funding variances should be examined. The Board would expect "volunteers" for this project, however, in the event we cannot field volunteers from Five Palms, Armstrong, Madla, Shepard and WCHS how much would it cost to form teams to conduct a "house to house census" of every new housing development in 78242? Objective: To find out if there are any school age children

in those homes. If yes, secure information, give welcome/information packets and schedule follow-up visits. Evenings and weekends may be necessary in order to find every family (COVID restrictions enforced). If we are able to recruit at least 100 new students that will offset the expected M&O Revenue Variance. Perhaps, by approx. \$1.0M?

Five Palms has gone door-to-door

Headstart recruitment

Target families/kids that have left SSAISD vs. new development

Stipends paid to staff (compensation or comp time)

Enrollment Specialist Team (Part-time Position) \$25.00 Hour

Save Your Seat at South San Campaign will begin June 1, 2020.