

Agenda Item IV

District Finance Discussion

Purpose of this agenda item: Information, discussion and potential board action

The budget that was adopted for the year ending June 30th 2014 was completed before the legislature adjourned in June 2013. A major issue that was unresolved during this period of time was PERS reform. The expense reduction for the district would be determined by the final reforms package and questions surrounding the timing of implementation.

The actual changes in the PERS rates for the current year were made certain when the legislature adjourned. The estimated savings were three hundred fifty thousand dollars for the year ending June 30th 2014. This reduced the estimated deficit spending by nearly fifty percent. This opened up the opportunity to evaluate the restoration of programs.

This potential was discussed at the September 12th meeting. Two key pieces of information that would change the two-year projection were just becoming known. These were the settlement of the teacher contract and the district enrollment numbers. It was determined that additional time would be needed to adequately account for this data in developing projections.

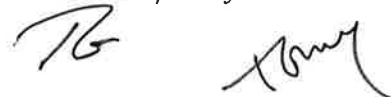
These projections have been prepared to provide an evaluation of the fiscal results of one specific program restoration. The elimination of elementary music specialists occurred as the result of recommendations made by the Resources For Achievement Group in preparing for the 2011-2012 budget. This group of community members, board members and staff advised that retaining smaller class sizes in K-2 and adopting elementary reading curriculum materials were the highest priority. To allow for these priorities to happen in a budget neutral manner the group suggested several actions could be taken. These actions included the elimination of elementary music specialists.

The restoration of programs is a decision that requires the asking of several questions.

- Where does this restoration fit in terms of current and future district needs or priorities, and what are the community priorities related to scope of programs at all levels?
- Do fiscal projections allow or preclude the restoration?
- What board policy impacts might there be?
- What implications might there be in order to sustain a restoration into the future?

These are many of the same questions a board considers within the full budget process annually, and consideration of them now is valuable in the context of program restoration.

Rick Gill/Tony Mann

The block contains two handwritten signatures. The first signature, on the left, is written in dark ink and appears to be 'RG' or 'Rick Gill'. The second signature, on the right, is also in dark ink and appears to be 'Tony Mann'.