

Q and A Regarding Budget Recommendations for Board Consideration

1. *When will the Board be hearing and discussing these recommendations?*

- January 11, 2010 –Presentation of recommendations for Board consideration (MMS)
- January 18, 2010 – Regular Board meeting (MMS)
- January 25, 2010 – Special Board meeting (MMS)
- February 1, 2010 – Regular Board meeting
- February 8, 2010 – Special Board meeting

All meetings are open to the public.

2. *Where may I view the recommendations for Board consideration?*

On the South Lyon Community Schools web site - www.slcs.us

3. *What does SLCS believe the pro-ration (cut) per pupil will be over the next two years?*

South Lyon is budgeting for a \$515 dollar per pupil proration over the next two school years.

4. *What is the total budget impact of this proration?*

A loss of \$1,166,000 in 2009-10, that same loss of \$1,166,000 continued in 2010-11, plus an additional loss of \$2,473,000 in 2010-11, for a total cumulative loss of \$4,805,000 over the two year period.

5. *What is fund equity or the “rainy day fund?” Why can't we use this money... It's raining!*

Fund equity is the total of all the District's previous annual surpluses and deficits. These dollars are used to cover cash flow, unforeseen expenses, and also to cover future deficits. The proposed plan includes using over \$3,100,000 of our rainy day fund over the next five years. This would leave just enough to cover the District cash flow without having to borrow money. Also, having a low fund balance can impact the District bond rating for bond holders.

6. *Why is it that the district has “no control” over 99% of the revenue coming into the District?*

- 89.6% of our revenues are based on our number of students and the State payment per student.
- 2.2% of our revenues are from the State for specific grants based on student demographics such as At-Risk, Special Education, and Pre-School.
- 3.5% of our revenues are from the Federal Government. These are based on allocations at the federal level based on student demographics.
- 3.9% of our revenues are from the Oakland Intermediate School District. These are primarily special education dollars. All dollars are based on a formula.

- 0.4% is for interest earnings and miscellaneous revenues.
- This leaves 0.4% of revenues that we have full control of. This includes the secondary activity fee, pay to participate fee, the indirect cost charged to food service and community education, rental fees, and parking fees.

7. *How can I share with Legislatures the impact of the potential \$515 cuts as described in the January 11, 2010 presentation to the Board found on www.slcs.us?*

Please contact your legislatures below and demand that education in Michigan have the highest priority and be adequately funded:

- 15th District Senator Nancy Cassis (517-373-1758) or senncassis@senate.michigan.gov
- 22nd District Senator Valde Garcia (517-373-2420) or senvgarcia@senate.michigan.gov
- 18th District Senator Liz Brater (517-373-2406) or senlbrater@senate.michigan.gov
- 38th District Representative Hugh D. Crawford (517-373-0827) or hughcrawford@house.mi.gov
- 66th District Representative Bill Rogers (517-373-1784) or billrogers@house.mi.gov
- 54th District Representative Alma Wheeler Smith (517-373-1771) or almasmith@house.mi.gov
- 52nd District Representative Pam Byrnes (517-373-0828) or pambyrnes@house.mi.gov
- Governor Jennifer Granholm (517-373-3400) or wilburc@michigan.gov

Community members are also encouraged to learn about SOS, Save our Students, Save our Schools, Save our State and visit their website at www.SOSMichigan.org.

8. *How can I provide feedback for Board consideration?*

There are opportunities for public comments at each of the meetings listed above. Public comments are listed on the agenda at the beginning and end of each meeting. The Board asks that comments are no longer than three minutes in length. Community members may also attend and provide feedback at any of the Superintendent’s building meetings listed below.

Building Meetings:

Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Centennial MS cafeteria Middle Schools*
 Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Dolsen Dolsen*
 Wednesday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Hardy Hardy, Kent Lake*
 Tuesday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Brummer Brummer, Salem*
 Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Sayre Sayre, Bartlett*
 Monday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the SLHS lecture hall SLHS, SLEHS*

* Although meetings are organized for the specific school communities listed, anyone is welcome to attend.

Communicating through email is also encouraged.

9. *When will the budget be adopted?*

By State law, the budget must be adopted annually no later than July 1. Historically, the Board of Education has adopted the budget in early June.

10. *If the Board decides to appoint a committee to recommend the closing of Dolsen or Salem Elementary, what will the configuration of the committee be? What is the recommended timeline for this committee?*

The last time a redistricting committee was formed the committee was comprised of the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, the Manager of Transportation, elementary principals, and two elementary parents from each building.

The administration's recommendation is that the committee would have a building closure recommendation to the Board by April 1.

11. *If the elementary Magnet program is recommended to be eliminated, how will appropriate instruction be delivered to advanced students?*

- a. Identification: We will continue to screen all students at the end of grade 2 and take referrals for grades 3-5 using the current Magnet criteria. However, students may qualify for math and/or reading advanced instruction but will not be required to qualify for both. This structure is similar to the PLUS Program at the middle school level where students can qualify for advanced instruction in reading, math or both. Students at the end of grade 2 who qualify for both reading and math may be accelerated one grade with parent permission. It is important to realize that this means no grade-three instruction in any content area. The impact of this will vary with the individual student. In making the decision, parents and staff will need to dialogue about this impact while keeping in mind what is best for the student.
- b. Structure of Services: Students will receive instruction, within their individual schools or classrooms, using flexible grouping for reading and math. This means that Magnet students will be grouped with others who have similar learning strengths and needs. Since the current structure of the program requires students to qualify for both reading and math, there are students with equal or possibly greater math or reading strengths that are not included in the current program. Through flexible grouping, students with similar math strengths and students with similar reading strengths will be grouped for advanced instruction which may include acceleration, enrichment and extensions.

12. What will the proposed elective rotations be at the middle school level?

Required Rotations:

- 8th - PE/Performing Arts
- 7th - PE/Health
- 6th - Health/Keyboard/PE

Optional at 8th:

- Spanish
- Chinese
- Computers/Tech

Optional at 7th:

- Art/Performing Arts

Optional at 6th:

- Tech/Journalism

Optional at 6/7/8th:

- Choir
- Band

13. What are the proposed electives that are being considered for elimination at the high school level?

Debate, Leadership

14. With the proposed elimination of media specialists at the elementary level, will students still be able to check books out?

Yes. Contracted media monitors will be hired so that a weekly book checkout time may occur for elementary students. Media centers and computer labs housed in the media centers will remain available daily for classroom teacher use.