

The following are questions submitted prior to the Budget Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5/20/2020. Additional questions may be submitted to Coleen Schwietert at cschwietert@buckeyeusd.org.

1. How were expenditure reductions determined?

The District began the process of determining expenditure reductions by reviewing potential cost savings that would not directly impact service levels to students or support to teachers in the coming year. For example, reducing books and supplies budget, discontinuing the contribution to deferred maintenance, suspending travel and conferences. However, given that approximately 86% of budget is personnel related, and due to the magnitude of Governor's proposed funding cuts, personnel related cost reductions have to be implemented. Positions at the District Office were first considered.

2. What impacts does the plan have on the District Office?

Impacts at the District Office include reductions to secretarial support and assistant accountant support as well as the reassignment of a Special Education Program Specialist to provide school psychologist/counseling services at sites and the loss of the EL Coordinator position. Program Specialist and EL Coordinator responsibilities will be absorbed by District Office Administration. The reduction of IT staffing will lead to District's Lead Tech providing site specific support.

3. Why are reductions to elementary counseling occurring at a time when students may have greater need for social emotional support?

In an increased budget year, we might have considered adding counseling support given current concerns. However, given the dramatic nature of the proposed State funding cuts and the fact that there are few options for realizing expenditure reductions, we are forced to reduce valued programs. School psychologists will continue to provide elementary counseling. During the Great Recession, class size increases were the primary tool for expenditure reductions. Class sizes have not improved since the end of the Great Recession as new funding would not support the substantial costs associated with lower class sizes. Instead the District prioritized increasing services such as counseling. Now that we are again faced with large cuts to funding, we have to consider valued services that were added in over the last several years.

4. Who will teach elementary P.E.? Why elementary P.E.?

The responsibility to teach elementary P.E. will fall on classroom teachers. During the Great Recession, District funded elementary P.E. instruction was much lower than is currently the case. At that time, the Buckeye Education Foundation stepped forward to

improve these services through parent fundraising. Two years ago, the District improved the services to the point that nearly all required P.E. minutes were covered by a P.E. specialist. Again, the magnitude of the State cuts and the fact that there are few other options for cutting expenditures has led to this reduction.

5. How will elementary libraries operate given the proposed reductions in library associates?

Elementary libraries will have minimal staffing and as a result, libraries will only be able to serve the function of processing textbooks and some very intermittent checking out of books to students. This was a service that was also reduced during the Great Recession and the Buckeye Education Foundation, with parent fundraising, assisted the District to increase services.

6. Given the reduction to custodians, how will the District ensure sites are appropriately cleaned when schools reopen?

The District will have to prioritize custodial duties for the times when classrooms may be cleaned after students leave for the day. In addition, less time will be allocated for groundskeeping and other custodial tasks in order to ensure activities associated with reducing the risk of COVID19 occur. The Governor's proposed budget simply does not reflect the reality of the needs in this moment.

7. How will reduction of aides to Resource Specialists impact services to students with special needs?

The District has a practice of staffing every resource specialist with an aide. This staffing occurred separate from that which was determined necessary by IEP teams for students. Many years ago, general classrooms were staffed with an aide. Over time, inadequate public education funding made this impossible. With the Governor's proposed budget, reductions to special education teacher aides must be considered.

8. Could furlough days, freezing step and column, and salary reductions be used to solve the problem, rather than layoffs?

Such measures can result in expenditure reduction; however, they must be negotiated and agreed upon by members of bargaining units. These measures alone would be unlikely to fully offset the size of the funding loss proposed by the Governor.

9. Has the District considered reducing digital licenses for online learning tools?

Digital licenses will be reviewed and some will likely be eliminated. Digital

learning tools are important for supporting student learning and with the very real possibility that remote learning will re-emerge as a need next year, digital tools will remain important to maintain.

10. Did the establishment of the District Office facility use General Fund Money?

No. The District Office was purchased and built out using restricted facility funds. The funds cannot be used to offset the types of reductions proposed in the stabilization plan.

11. Will more reductions be necessary after this year?

Under the Governor's current proposal, the District estimates \$3 million more in reductions will need to be made for the '21-'22 school year.

12. What can happen that would reduce or eliminate the need for reductions?

Any assistance that the community can provide through the Buckeye Education Foundation will help.

If the State legislature amends the Governor's proposal by dispersing (CRF) CARES Act funds on a per ADA basis, rather than a Concentration Grant eligibility basis, the need for reductions could be significantly reduced or eliminated for one year.

If the Congress with President Trump's approval were to sign the Heroes Act, as currently written, the Governor indicates all of the reductions would be eliminated for one year.

If the economy recovers quickly over the next several months, then the need for reductions in '21-'22 could be reduced with increased State funding for public schools.