

Budget Plans for 2011-12 and future years

February 2011

In 2006, with the implementation of HB 1 for school funding, Bryan ISD saw a greater need for long range planning. While HB 1 provided property tax relief for taxpayers and allowed some additional revenue for school districts with up to \$.04 of tax effort, it was recognized that additional revenue would be dependent upon voter approval for additional tax effort or upon future legislative changes to the school funding formula. HB364 was implemented beginning with the 2009-10 school year but provided very little additional revenue. Further, the additional revenue provided had specific requirements attached. These bills, along with the economic downturn experienced across the state and nation, have caused financial stress on the state budget as never seen before.

Bryan ISD has been in a budget reduction mode for the past 5 years but this has not been enough to offset what is being forecasted for the next biennium. Early estimates have public school funding facing a 5% to 15% reduction in revenue. Because not all school districts are funded equally, we are now waiting not only on the percentage decline for public education, but how this will be distributed across all school districts. Experts have run various scenarios on how this might be done. Estimates for Bryan ISD range from \$1.5 million to as high as \$15 million depending on the final reduction to public education as well as the possible methods of distribution.

For this reason, BISD Administrators have met regularly since early fall to discuss various options for further budget reductions. The following statements were agreed upon early in this budget process as well as those of the past few years:

1. Budget reductions at this point will affect instruction negatively but we will try to keep this to a minimum and focus on keeping progress in student performance moving in a positive direction.
2. Instructional programs put in place over the past 3 to 5 years are a priority and will be retained if at all possible.
3. With over 80% of the District's General Fund Budget and over 70% of the entire budget utilized for salary and benefits, major reductions will have to be made in personnel to meet large budget reduction goals.
4. Personnel reductions will take place through attrition.

BISD Administrators have been working to develop three plans:

Plan A: A plan that can be implemented over a 2-year period and will result in at least \$4 million in budget reductions. The majority of the plan will be implemented in the first year, 2010-11.

Plan B: Added to Plan A, additional budget reductions of \$2.1 million in this plan will get the total to about \$6.1 million. The implementation of Plan B will include deeper personnel cuts and reductions in areas that could take longer. The final plan from the legislature will determine how much of this plan

will need to be implemented as well as when. Some of this plan can be implemented for 2011-12 but most will be carried forward to 2012-13.

Plan C: The addition of this plan will result in budget reductions that have a greater impact on instruction. Financial savings are harder to calculate in this plan. Early estimates for Plan C total \$3.3 million bringing the total to about \$9.6 million. Plan C is a worst case scenario. The negative impact on instruction will be highest with this plan and it will take the longest for implementation. None of this plan could be implemented for 2011-12 and may take 2 years or more to see all the results.

Details of these plans can be found in the attached exhibits.

There are many other areas Administration will continue to discuss and make recommendations on that are not included in the above plans but could increase the amount of budget reductions. This includes researching an alternative to the co-teach model in special education staffing.

In addition to budget reductions, Bryan ISD has the challenge of addressing the issues of overcrowding in some schools and low enrollments in others. We are exploring an option that could move as many as 5 classrooms from Bonham Elementary to Henderson Elementary for the 2011-12 school year by moving some of the bilingual program currently at Bonham. Long range, if the District financially cannot move forward with building additional elementary schools, rezoning will have to be considered.

Bryan ISD will continue to keep the progress of students as its highest priority as we struggle through these hard economic times.

EXHIBIT A

BRYAN ISD BUDGET REDUCTION PLAN A

- Requires the implementation of an aggressive early resignation incentive with the goal of receiving resignations early in the year and allow for adequate planning and placement of positions.
- Elimination of the relocation stipend currently offered to new bilingual teachers to BISD.
- As resignations occur in the nursing area replace with LVN's instead of RN's.
- Elimination of the tuition reimbursement program.
- Reduce the end of year employee service awards.
- Eliminate transfer transportation between our middle schools and 2 main high schools.
- Change the staffing design for libraries to include 1 Library Assistant in each elementary school and middle school and at least 2 at each high school. 5 to 6 Certified Librarians will be retained as Supervisors.
- Reduce the library book and periodical budget.
- Eliminate or move the funding for Middle School Interventionist .
- Increase the student to teacher ratio in the staffing formula by 1 at the high school and 2 at the middle school and reduce teaming to include core content areas only.
- Move from an 8 period to a 7 period day at the middle schools.
- Eliminate or reduce permanent sub positions at the high schools.
- Reduce the overall substitute budget.
- Reduce non-campus positions by 6. (Administration, Technology, Maintenance & Operations etc..)
- Utility reduction
 - 4 day work week – June & July only
 - Reduce the number of days campuses are open in the summer.
 - Change the set points and times for HVAC.
- Change the staffing format for pre-kinder classrooms to share Instructional Assistants between classrooms.
- Do not apply for the Middle Years Program for Jane Long Middle School

ESTIMATED SAVINGS AMOUNT PLAN A

\$4,000,000

EXHIBIT B

BRYAN ISD BUDGET REDUCTION PLAN B

- All of Plan A
- Move to two 4A High Schools
- Reduce teaming further than core content area only.
- Reduce the District's contribution to the healthcare plan.
- Reduce non-campus positions further.
- Reduce clerical support at the secondary schools by 1 each.
- Assumes the legislature increases the maximum student to teacher ratio for elementary.

TOTAL ESTIMATE SAVINGS FOR PLAN B

\$2,000,000

EXHIBIT C

BRYAN ISD BUDGET REDUCTION PLAN C

- All of plan A and B.
- Implementation of a Reduction in Force
- Possible consolidation of schools or programs.
- Change or eliminate instructional programs.
- Fully eliminate teaming.
- Rezoning will be necessary.
- Increase in the maintenance and operations tax rate with a tax ratification election.