



2010-2011 Budget Planning
and Development

Progress Update & Current Approach

School Board Meeting
March 9, 2010





Strategic Directions and Budget Planning



- The purpose of budget planning and development is to align resources with our purpose, vision, and identified needs and directions within our strategic plan, positioning us to make effective decisions now and in the future
- Ultimately, our primary focus is aligning and maximizing the use of limited resources so that we are able to support staff in continuously meeting the needs of and **improving the learning of each of our students**
- In January we reviewed our recent successes, current initiatives, and emerging influences in detail. This evening we are providing a progress update of our budget planning and development process



Budget Planning and Development

A brief review of our current reality



- We are faced with numerous challenges as we make adjustments to our current year budget. There are even more challenges as we develop our budget for next year and future years.
- For 2009-2010, the district made \$1.5 million in budget cuts and modifications; none at the classroom level, virtually none at the school level. Reductions were made in previous years that were also kept from the school and classroom level



Budget Planning and Development

A brief review of our current reality

The **per pupil funding** we received from the State for the current school year is the same amount as last year. There was no increase.

However, **funding shifts and decreasing levels of reimbursement** result in our having less net revenue for the current school year than we did in 2008-2009.

As we look to developing a balanced budget for 2010-2011, it would be optimistic to assume that schools will receive current (flat) levels of funding. A decrease in the current level of funding is a possibility we must anticipate. This will be the third straight year of the same or lower level of funding.





Budget planning and development

A brief review of our current reality



- We are projecting an enrollment of 4,680 students for the 2010-2011 school year. This number reflects a conservative approach to our budgeting process over the next two years, projecting flat levels of enrollment.

This enrollment level puts Spring Lake Park in the top 10% of districts in Minnesota. (We are definitely not a small district).

- We must pay attention to our decreasing market share as education consumerism is increasing, resulting in increased competition, such as charter schools and open enrollment. The good news is that preliminary indications reflect a slight increase in open enrollment requests, particularly at the elementary level.



Budget Planning and Development

Guiding Change: Parameters

In January the School Board developed a *Guiding Change* document that defined the parameters – desired results and unacceptable means - to guide administration in the planning and development of the budget.

As a result, the final desired result is that budget adjustments:

- *will* result in a balanced general fund budget currently projected at \$42.4 million for the 2010-11 school year, while also planning for the 2011-12 school year
 - this requires \$2.3 million modifications for next year, projected to be \$4 million over two years

The Guiding Change document, as well as a wealth of information related to our budgeting process can be found on the home page of our website.





Budget Planning and Development

Process to this point

- **November:** Wrap up 2008-2009 budget
- **December:** Initial enrollment and budget projections for 2010-11, while also updating current year budget
- **January:**
 - School Board developed *Guiding Change* document – desired results and unacceptable means – that defined out budget planning and development parameters
 - Budget planning data developed by administration





Budget Planning and Development

Current approach: budget development for 2010-2011

- **February 3 – Present:**

- We're not starting from scratch: Ongoing review of ideas generated from last years extensive budget planning process, as well as those initiated by community and staff
- Principals and directors working with School/Program Budget Planning Teams to identify potential budget modifications
- Administrative Team meeting regularly to review progress and develop a coherent approach to budget adjustments. Identified \$200,000 in current year budget freezes
- Board update at February work session
- Regular communications and updates





Budget Planning and Development

Current approach: budget development for 2010-2011

Operations.....estimated \$450,000

- Technology
 - Energy savings: central shutdown of computer/technology equipment when not in use
 - Reduce technology service contracts
 - Efficiencies in copier and supply use and services
- Transportation
 - New transportation contracts for 2010-2011
 - Reduction in Special Education bus routes
 - Further examination of routing for further efficiencies
- Buildings and Grounds
 - outdoor watering cycle efficiencies, all school grounds
- Attrition, purposeful management of costs in replacing staff due to retirements and resignations





Budget Planning and Development

Current approach: budget development for 2010-2011

Revenue Generation.....estimated \$450,000

- Increased enrollment, Lighthouse Program for the highly gifted
- ..
- Move forward with the planning and implementation of QComp





Budget Planning and Development

Current approach: budget development for 2010-2011



Educational Services.....estimated \$550,000

- Reduce and/or eliminate testing and software services
 - TransAct
 - Targeted use of Measures of Academic Progress assessment at the high school level
- Activities budget reduction
 - Supplies and program budget adjustment, recommended by the Activities Director, that will not negatively impact any activity
- Reduction of field trips
- Ever more effective and efficient use of Targeted Services



Budget Planning and Development

Current approach: budget development for 2010-2011

Educational Services *continued*

- Staffing adjustments
 - Staff support positions within specific programs
 - Class size ratio increases: 1 at middle school, 1 to 1.4 at high school
 - *Spring Lake Park has consistently improved class size standing in recent years due to budget reductions in other areas*
 - *Purposeful allocation of resources has allowed us to maintain and lower class sizes in the past while others have increased*
 - *The high school ranks #2 in Metro ECSU study, middle school improved from very bottom to 11 of 22. These changes, we anticipate, would result in our class sizes remaining at a similar ranking*
 - *These changes will not increase middle school core class sizes*
 - Elementary media specialists shared – 1 staff per two schools
 - Restructure prep specialist schedule at Westwood Intermediate School, and restructure programming within elementary Gifted and Talented services





Budget Planning and Development

Current approach: budget development for 2010-2011

Educational Services/Special Education

estimated \$300,000

- Reduce program “slots” at schools outside the district. We can accomplish this by effectively and efficiently providing these services within the district.
- Billing of staff services provided to external programs
- Staff reductions due to students “aging out” of programs, as well as extremely encouraging results realized by the implementation of Systems of Interventions in each school. This provides services to students, while proactively reducing the number of students in need of Special Education services
- Materials and supplies reduction





Budget Planning and Development

Current approach: budget development for 2010-2011

Administration/Administration Support

estimated \$200,000

- Restructuring of administrative services at grades 9-12
- Restructuring of administrative staffing at the district level





Budget Planning and Development

Areas of ongoing review

Areas of ongoing review, further consideration

- Transfer allowable expenditures from the general fund to the food service fund
- Further reductions within the area of buildings and grounds
- Further review and modification of elementary instructional delivery models
- Further administrative/administrative support reductions at the school-level
- Further reductions in the area of technology
- Reductions of supply and program budgets
- Examine elimination of two to four instructional days if this meets the required hours of instruction with current or slightly revised daily schedule





Budget Planning and Development

Next Steps



March 15: Community Advisory Council Meeting – community feedback



March 17: Public Meeting: Budget Update on Current Approach – community feedback



March 18: Administrative Team Meeting to refine and develop final recommended approach



March 23: School Board Update and Review

April: School Board Update and approval of budget modifications and planning parameters



April - May: Development of Budget

June: School Board approval of the budget



Resources: a challenge we will meet in planning for a very successful 2010-2011



- The purpose of budget planning and development is to align resources with our vision and identified needs and directions within our strategic plan, positioning us to make effective decisions now and in the future
- Budget reductions are difficult as the district does not have “extra” programs or services in place. Modifications impact staff, directly or indirectly, as 77% of our budget is in the area of staffing. This is not something we take lightly.
- Ultimately, our primary focus must be to align and maximize the use of limited resources to both **personalize and improve the learning of each of our students**
- This is a great school district, with great students and a great staff. Despite the resource challenges – the same faced by many if not most businesses and families in our community– we will continue to make progress. I firmly believe we are positioning the district, our staff, and our students, to have a very successful year in 2010-2011.