

Site Council Questions

10/17/17

Q1. What caused the supplies/materials/media category to jump in 2014-15 school year?

- A. Fluctuations from one year to the next can be the result of buying materials/media at a discounted rate that will benefit/cover a couple of years. It also can be a result of curriculum implementation and the materials needed for that curriculum. PE or Science for example could be more expensive than Language Arts.

Q2. Is there a way to get an approved budget in place earlier in the year so the District and schools can prepare?

- A. The State of Alaska provides approximately 70% of our operating budget. In FY14, the legislature passed legislation that included a three-year plan to fund the Foundation Formula with increases of \$150 for the first year, and \$50 for the next two years. That was intended to provide stability to School Districts. However, with the decline in oil and the budget concerns at the State level, those increases to the BSA were not certain. In each of the last three sessions, K-12 funding has not been determined until the end of the legislative session. This again has put us in the situation where we did not know our funding until the legislative session was complete and a budget was signed into law. In FY16, the governor made vetoes to the budget that equaled the amount of the \$50 BSA increase.

We continue to advocate for forward and known funding from the State of Alaska.

Q3. How come KPBSD hasn't piloted a 4-day school week?

- A. On 10/26/16, Site Budget Questions, was answered as follows:

As of FY13, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), 21 states currently have more than 120 public school districts (usually small, rural districts) with 4-day school weeks. During the 2013 Legislative session, HB 21 that would have allowed pilot programs of a 4-day week in Alaska failed.

As a cost saving measure, the Education Commission of the States found that most districts actual savings is between 0.4% and 2.5%. Part of the reason is that staff schedules are adjusted to work the same number of hours in total, but over a shorter week. Operations and Maintenance of Plant, which includes utility costs, are generally the largest area of savings, at around 1.0%.

While the cost savings is a small percentage, 2% of a \$140M budget is still \$2.8M.

Other considerations that would need to be addressed would be what happens with students on the additional day off. According to US News and World Report, some districts

have worked out community solutions including partnerships with local libraries and hospitals. That might be a solution for some communities in KPBSD?

Q4. Since salaries and benefits are the highest cost to the District, has the District explored the possibilities of an early retirement for teachers?

A. On 10/26/16, Site Budget Questions, was answered as follows:

If the state supported it with funding, it's possible that less experienced teachers might be hired to replace retirees.

Q5. Why does enrollment continue to drop in KPBSD?

A. There are multiples factors contributing to the decline in enrollment. It appears there has been a shift in population demographics. While the overall population of the Kenai Peninsula Borough is growing, it is also aging. The age group growing the most are those 65 years old and higher. There is also a corresponding low population of residents age 20-44. This group is most likely to have children in school.

Q6. Why didn't the borough fund to the maximum for FY18?

A. The Kenai Peninsula Borough has long demonstrated its support of our school district. For many years when the State short funded our District, the Borough funded to the maximum. With few revenue generating options, the Borough is funding to what the administration and assemble believes it can afford. All government entities are feeling the pinch of the current fiscal situation in Alaska. It is incumbent upon the State to provide fiscal certainty for all local governments and school districts first and then the Borough will be able to adequately plan for the future on the Kenai Peninsula.

Q7. How much does it cost per student? (All schools)

A. District-wide the average per pupil cost is \$13,883. This is based on the FY17 actual expenditures less in-kind and on-behalf divided by the OASIS student count.

\$141,065,303 Expenditures
(8,486,838) On-Behalf
(10,622,067) In-Kind
\$121,956,398 Total Expenditures

8,784.83 FY17 OASIS Student Count

\$13,882.61 Cost per Student

District-wide costs vary based on number of students and geographical location of the school.

Q8. What have we cut?

A.

FY15 Budget Reductions

Change PTR certificated staffing and reduce unallocated	\$	691,050
District Office 2 FTE Certificated - D/W Mentors		160,574
Technology		50,000
Supplies		50,000
Software		100,000
Utilities (Convert to Natural Gas)		250,000
School Board Travel		4,000
Total FY15 Reductions	\$	1,305,624

FY16 Budget Reductions

Student Travel State Competitions	\$	25,000
Curriculum Supplies		50,000
Utilities		550,000
Restructuring Pool Operations & Distance Ed 2.0 FTE		200,000
PTR Reductions (Elementary Shift) 2.5 FTR and Secondary PTR increase .50 for 4.38 FTE		550,000
Total FY16 Reductions	\$	1,375,000

FY17 Budget Reductions

District Office 5.26 FTE	\$	642,348
District Office Supplies/Travel/Pro-Tech/Software/Equipment		415,050
12.15 FTE Teacher (Due to enrollment) 1.0 FTE Counselor and 2.0 FTE School Admin		1,376,995
Reduce transfer to Food Services		100,000
2% Reduction in Estimated Salary and Benefits due to Change in Budget		902,436
Total FY17 Reductions	\$	3,436,829

FY18 Budget Reductions

5.0 FTE Unallocated for Class Size Adjustment	\$	500,000
1.0 FTE Pupil Services Coordinator		140,696
1.00 FTE Accounting Specialist		59,703
Extra Curricular Safety Money		10,000
ELL Tutors		620,076
Custodial		538,833
Total FY18 Reductions	\$	1,869,308

Q9. Is the snow plowing and sanding bid out like other big services?

- A. Yes, through an RFP process. Information is available on the KPB Purchasing website.

Q10. Where do the marijuana taxes go? Is it just into the borough general fund or is a portion directly into the district's budget?

- A. The State of Alaska imposes a \$50 per ounce of marijuana tax, this tax is paid by the cultivation facilities when sold or transferred to a retail marijuana store. A small portion is remitted to the local governing body to offset licensing and personnel costs.

From the KPB Website: Proceeds from the 3% consumer's sales tax levied by the Borough on all retail sales, wholesale sales, rents, and services, (unless specifically exempted) are dedicated solely to Kenai Peninsula Borough schools.

Q11. Are there more specifics as to where the 4900 funds are spent?

- A. 4900 Other Expenses – Expenditures for goods and services that cannot be accounted for elsewhere; dues and fees.

Professional dues, ASAA dues, Charter school indirect costs are paid out of 4900.