
Finance Advisory Committee

*Ukee Dozier
Elliot Salmon
Julia Fredrickson*

FAC Purpose

Advise administration and the SLP School Board on
economic and school finance issues, and
build community trust in district finances

FAC Members

Community Members (12)

Maren Anderson
Rich Benson
Julia Fredrickson
Steve Gednalske
Valerie Jensen
Alyssah Langhart
Joseph LaPray
David Larson
Katherine Lawler
Derek Reise
Alex Schmid
Kenya Taylor Allison

Student Members (10)

Amal Abdi
Walton Anderson
Najma Hussein
Natashia Johannes
Alicia Margalli
Cecilia Meyen
Katie Nelson
Noah Orloff
Camille Ramberg
Elliot Salmon

Staff/School Board Members (6)

Jessica Busse, High School Assistant Principal
Colin Cox, School Board
Ukee Dozier, Internal Auditor
Brooks Grossinger, Controller
Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services
Ken Morrison, School Board

Approach for 2021

- Expanded membership to include more community, district staff, and student representation
- Focused on educating FAC members about district financials (training session)
- Discussed the impact of race (training session)
- Held all meetings via Zoom
- Posted meeting materials on District website
- Added Thought Partners

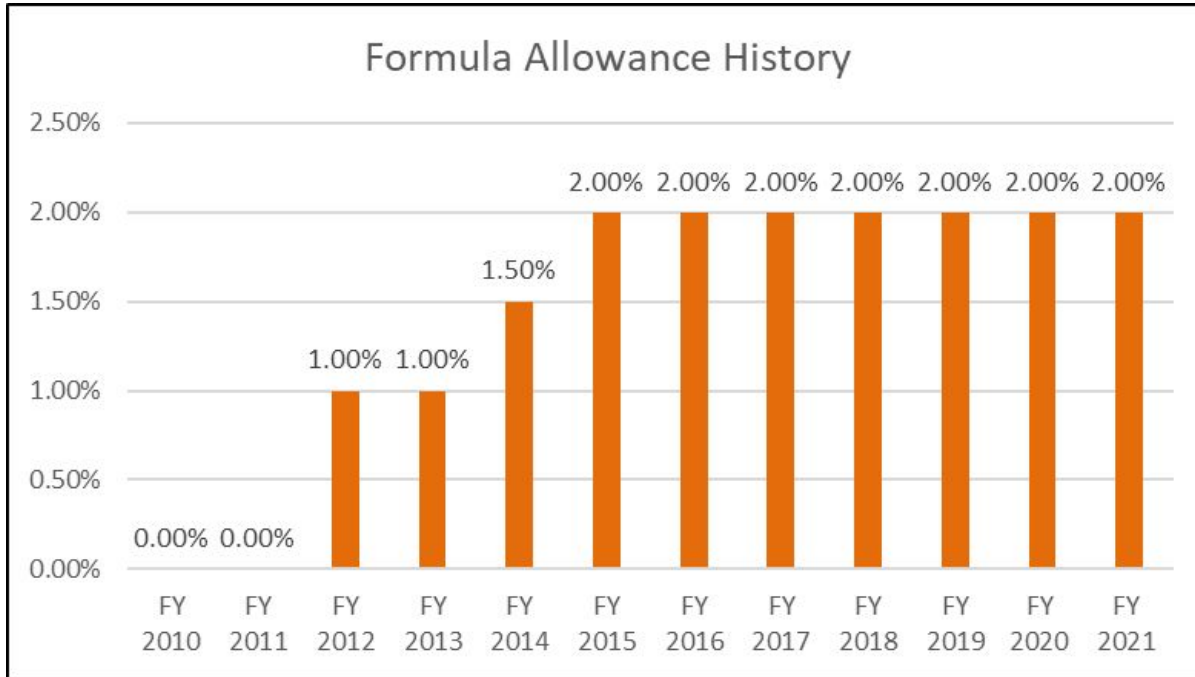
Primary Factors Discussed and Considered

- Meeting Protocols
- Budget Timeline
- State of Minnesota Economic Outlook
- Enrollment Projections
 - Importance of identifying reasons students leave
- Declining Fund Balance
 - Revenue drivers
 - Expense management

Budget Recommendations - Key Items

- Per Pupil Funding from State
- Enrollment Projections
- Unreserved Fund Balance
- Student Fees

Recommendation #1: 1% Increase Per Pupil Funding Formula



Recommendation #1: 1% Increase in Pupil Funding Formula

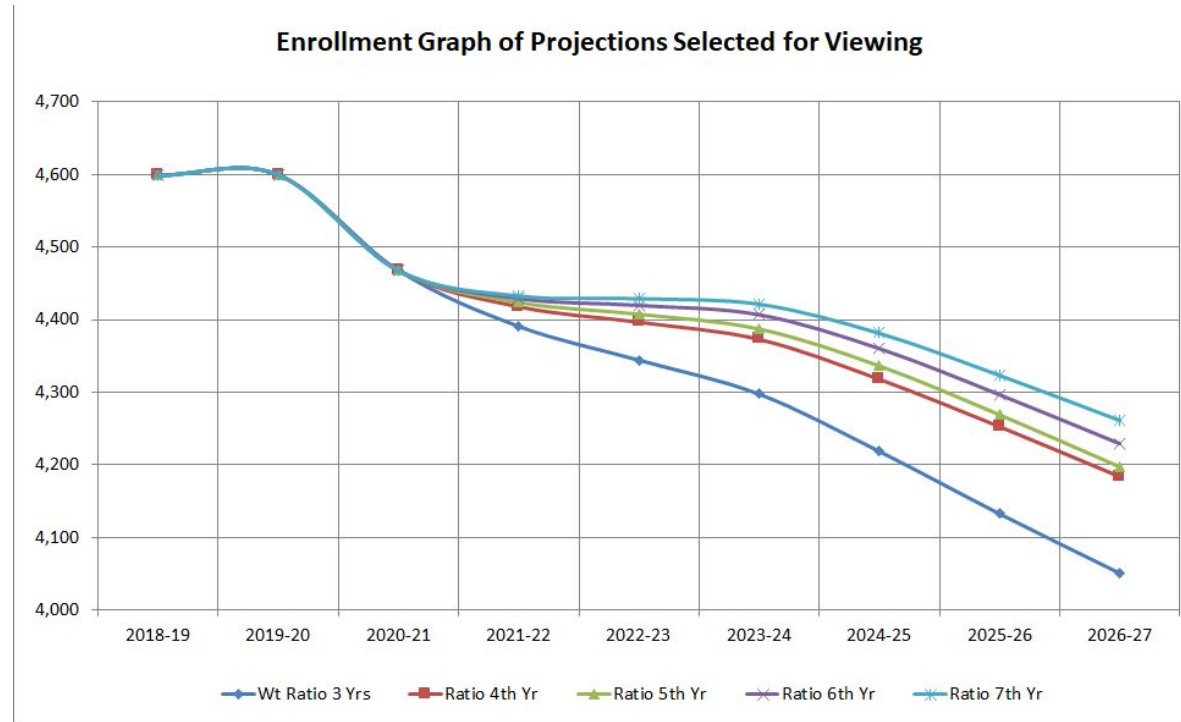
- Considered a Range from 0% to 2%
- Safe, Middle of the Road
- Governor's Budget Proposal Includes 1% for FY 2022

Recommendation #2:

Assume 4,862 adjusted pupil units (APU), with potential for increased enrollment if trends following the pandemic result in the return of students lost in FY2021

Projection Method

- Chose 7-year survival model
- Diminishes impact of pandemic

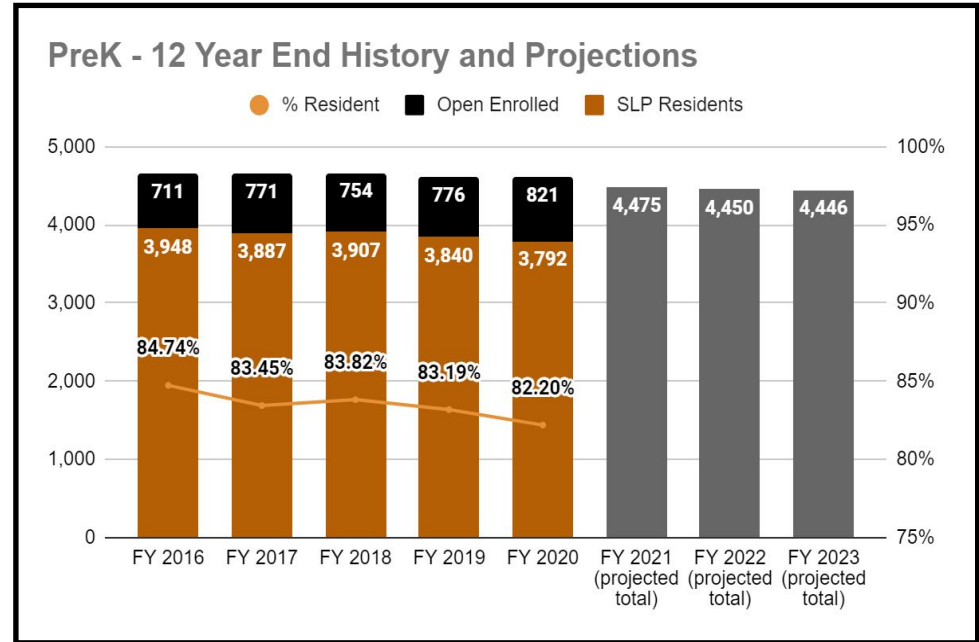


Recommendation #2:

4,862 adjusted pupil units (APU), with potential for increased enrollment if trends following the pandemic result in the return of students lost in FY2021

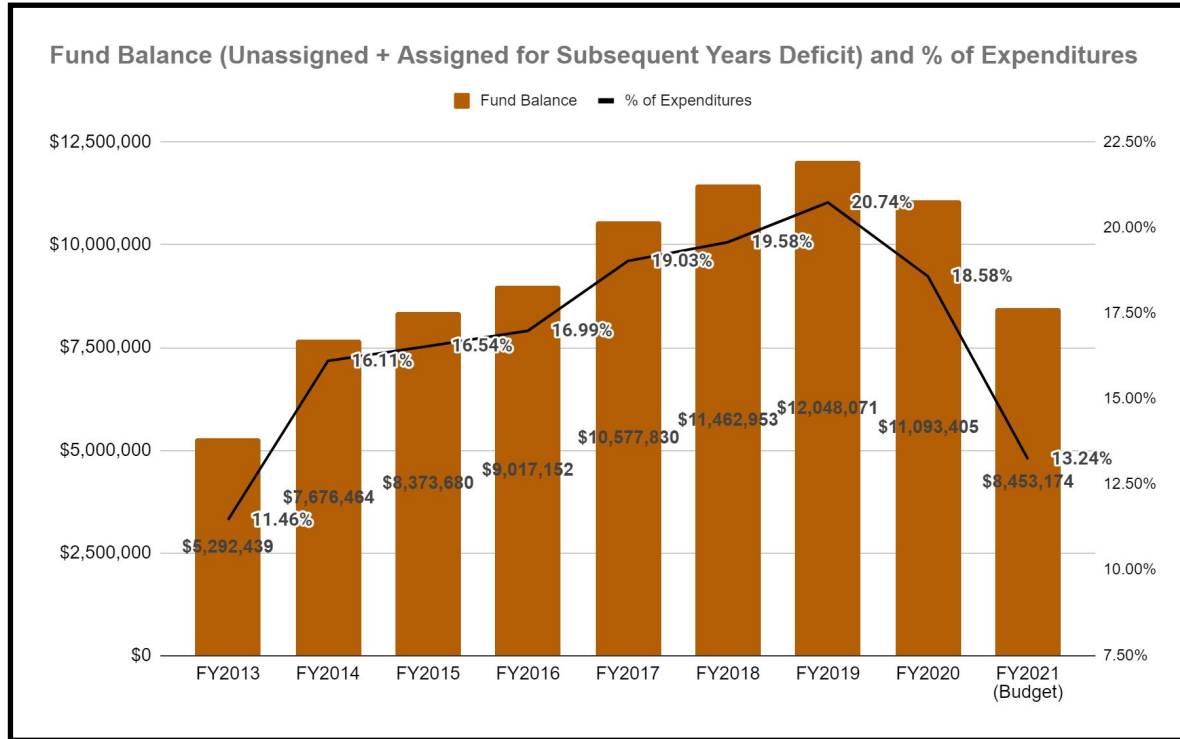
Fiscal Recommendation: Grow Resident Enrollment

- Buildings have space for additional students
- Aggressively pursue strategies to capture and retain resident students
- Create census group to contact families to ascertain and document reasons for leaving, particularly at school transition years
- Have administration review trends and consider changes in policies, curriculum, personnel, and communication to address perceived issues



Recommendation #3:

Within revenue constraints, build an expenditure budget that maintains an unreserved fund balance of 10%



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Within revenue constraints, build an expenditure budget that maintains an unreserved fund balance of 10%

- Allows for continued deficit spending as District emerges from the pandemic, but does so in a limited manner
- Fund balance necessary for cash flow
- One time money
- Continued deficit spending is not sustainable

Fiscal recommendation: Balanced Budget

Identify opportunities to return the District to a balanced budget without negatively impacting the classroom, particularly those efforts that relate to attracting and retaining SLP resident students.

Fiscal recommendation: Manage Expense Increases

Continue the open and active dialogue with unions representing all staff regarding the fundamental importance of controlling the growth of compensation and benefits costs at or below the level of any increase in per student state reimbursement.



Recommendation #4:

Maintain local revenue - Increase student activity fees and meal prices; maintain high school student parking fees at current rate.

- **High School Activity Fees** - increase of \$10 (~5%) per activity to \$205 for most sports (\$250 for hockey); this will generate additional revenue of approximately \$10,000 per year
- **Middle School Activity Fees** - increase of \$5 (5%) per activity to \$105 for all sports; this will generate additional revenue of approximately \$1,250 per year
- **Parking Fees** - no change to the current parking fee of \$50 per semester is recommended
- **Meal Prices** - increase breakfast by \$0.15, lunch by \$0.10; this will generate additional revenue of approximately \$25,000 per year

Recommendation #4:

Maintain local revenue - Increase student activity fees and meal prices; maintain high school student parking fees at current rate.

- Comparable with surrounding districts
- Places fees on students/families who use the service, rather than the entire school population
- FAC members differed on timing of athletic fee increases, in part due to reduced value resulting from shorter seasons this year
- Very small impact on overall budget

Summary Recommendations

Budget recommendations

- 1% Increase in Per Pupil Formula
- 4,862 Adjusted Pupil Units (APU's)
- Maintain at least a 10% Unreserved Fund Balance
- Increase Student Activity Fees and Meal Prices

Fiscal recommendations

- Balance the Budget
- Manage Expense Increases
- Grow Resident Enrollment

Due to the uncertainty of future state funding, the district should continue to **balance expenses, class sizes, and programs offered**, while **seeking operational efficiencies** and **retaining a sufficient fund balance**



FAC Feedback

“My name is Natashia Johannes, and I am a student. I heard about FAC from a staff member who was requesting students to give input for the school financial committee. FAC provided me with more knowledge about how the school spends their money. I’m glad I joined FAC because it helped me to get a better understanding of what goes into an educational budget.

“The FAC has provided me an opportunity to view our community through a new, financial lens. I have enjoyed learning about the district’s budget while getting to know others who are passionate about St. Louis Park Public Schools.”, Noah Orloff (student)

“I so appreciate the work of the Finance Advisory Committee. The transparency that it allows for around school finance and how we manage funds creates a level of trust in the community. I am grateful for the intentional focus on equity this year, as often finance (and math as a whole) ignores the people that numbers represent. Having students on the committee has been exciting and I love hearing their perspectives and voice. This year more than ever, our work can be seen in action and results. The uncertainty of the pandemic has been hard but this group has been consistent and steadfast.”, Jessica Busse, High School Assistant Principal

[Link to FAC videos](#)

Samples of Thought Partner Conversations:

- As a student, wondering when extracurricular funding will go if sports are canceled because of COVID restrictions.
- There are some family members (in the district) who don't speak English and don't know the process of enrolling their child in kindergarten so they usually go in-person for that but now everything is online so it makes it harder.
- Race equity coaches are great, but administration needs to emphasize the importance of this work and make it a condition of employment.
- What does IB cost the district and how is it directly helping to close the gap?
- As a student, wondering when extracurricular funding will go if sports are canceled because of COVID restrictions.
- Are there funds being allocated (by way of extra hires or other) in order to give extra help to those families that may not be prepared for distance learning?
- I've always wondered how they cover that and how many families actually get the free/reduced lunch?
- Why are school districts expected to pay for meals, social workers, childcare for essential workers, etc.?
- My thought partner is friends with many other families with children at our school. The general sentiment from our discussion is the reduction in enrollment will be temporary.

[FAC Member video](#)

Questions?