

DIERINGER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget Considerations

HISTORY

Since a high-water mark in enrollment in 2019-2020, Dieringer School District has seen a drop in enrollment of 125 students. This is equivalent to a corresponding drop in apportionment of 1.25M at a time when salaries have increased by double digits, insurance rates have increased by over 20%, and inflation has caused supply expenses to sky-rocket.



TASK

How does Dieringer stay ahead of the curve by delivering an innovative, quality education within the confines of budget constrictions?

As the process of right-sizing the budget is initiated, the budget committee is asked to discuss and consider 3 primary areas of focus:

Enrollment

How can enrollment be increased and stabilized?

Revenue

How can revenue be maximized?

Expenditures

Where are there opportunities for efficiencies and reductions?



FACTS

STATE FUNDING

Apportionment is directly tied to student enrollment. The prototypical school model dictates how many staffing units are generated by a district's enrollment.

The prototypical school model is decades old and does not adequately meet the needs of modern school districts. Dieringer has used levy funding to fill those gaps.

EPO LEVY COLLECTIONS

The District is constrained to per pupil levy collections. This means that when enrollment drops, so do the levy revenues.

Although the McCleary decision did result in more state dollars for districts, it also meant a **drop** in local revenue. Rather than a huge increase in revenue, it was a swap of one revenue source for another.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT STAFF: WHERE THE PROTOTYPICAL MODEL FALLS SHORT



The chart below reflects the number of students it takes to drive 1 staff FTE in each category.

Dieringer currently employs 4 counselors, 1 certificated nurse, 3 classified nurses, 1 health tech, and 2 psychologists.

Staff Position	Elementary	Middle	High
School Counselors	811	355	236
School Nurses	5,263	7,200	6,250
Social Workers	9,524	72,000	40,000
Psychologists	23,529	216,000	85,714
Student and Staff Safety	5,063	4,696	4,255

RISING COSTS



STAFFING

Staffing comprises 75-85% of a school district's budget. With the elimination of the state salary schedule, state funded salaries have not kept pace with actual salary costs.



MEDICAL INSURANCE

The introduction of SEBB means that the district now has to offer benefits to staff who are fully *un*funded, at a cost of \$13,200 each.



SUBSTITUTES

The state funds only 4 substitute days per funded teacher, at a rate of \$156/day. It funds NO classified substitutes.



LIABILITY INSURANCE

Districts have experienced an average increase of 30% in insurance rates over the last 2 years.



Funding 101

BEA RATE

Each student FTE drives just under \$11,000 in funding for Dieringer. This varies from district to district.

Funded Certificated Salary

The state provides an average salary = \$87,486 for each certificated FTE driven by the prototypical model.

Levy rate

For calendar year 2023, Dieringer collected \$2876 per resident FTE. This includes students who waiver out, and high school students.

Dieringer Average Salaries

The average certificated salary in Dieringer is \$108,932, inclusive of longevity and Professional Enrichment.

Funding cont.

The state directly funds a total of 16.4 classified FTE through the prototypical school model for the entire district.

This includes 3 paraeducators, .8 technology staff, and 5.7 custodians.

The average BEA funded salary for classified staff is \$54,103, for a total allocation of \$994,854.

The actual Special Education classified allocation is \$1,070.72. The District spends roughly double its Special Education funding annually. The request for funding for actual expenditures is put before the legislature annually.



OTHER FUNDING SOURCES?

TECH LEVY

Tech levy revenue is collected in a separate fund – Capital Projects Fund. Only expenses identified in the levy resolution can be charged to the tech levy. While it is possible to maintain tech support staff through the levy, there would need to be reductions in the hardware and services purchased to sustain this option.

FACILITIES LEVY

This too is captured in the Capital Projects Fund and cannot be used for general fund expenses.



PRIORITIES

An initial budget survey was sent out to staff and community as a starting point for conversation regarding district vision and priorities.

Monetary amounts were not assigned to the choices to allow for an instinctive selection sans cost.

As the committee works through the process, legal and fiscal constraints will be discussed.

A landscape of green wheat fields under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with tall, green wheat stalks. In the middle ground, there are rows of wheat fields, some appearing to be recently harvested or planted. The background shows a flat horizon with a few trees and a cloudy sky. A yellow rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing a quote in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**“THERE IS ALWAYS
ENOUGH MONEY
FOR OUR
PRIORITIES.”**

The District receives no state funding for extracurricular activities or outdoor education. It did receive a sizable grant for 6th grade camp for the 23-24 school year.

The District is funded for 1 technology staff member.

Question 1: Continue to Offer Outdoor Education or continue to offer activity buses.

50/50 split

Question 2: Continue to offer no-cut middle school sports or maintain technology support services.

50/50 split

Budget Survey:

246 Total Responses



Social Emotional Support and Instructional Coaches

Question 3

Expand/maintain mental health support **or** expand/maintain instructional coaches.

68% vs 32%

Question 5

Expand/maintain instructional coaches and behavior support **or** maintain smaller class sizes.

25% to 75%

Question 9

Expand/maintain mental and behavior support **or** maintain smaller class sizes.

37% vs. 63%

Technology

Question 6

Maintain a shorter cycle between technology hardware upgrades **or** maintain building technology support services.

19% vs. 81 %



New Opportunities

Question 4

Expand preschool to improve kindergarten readiness **or** maintain current intervention programs.

13% vs. 87%

Question 7

Expand instructional program offerings to increase enrollment **or** maintain instructional support services.

25% vs. 75%

Question 8

Maintain smaller class sizes **or** expand virtual and homeschool alternative learning options.

90% vs. 10%

These survey results are not unexpected in a district that has had success with its current operational model.

The necessity of balancing the budget can be the change agent behind the type of innovative thinking that will continue to build on those previous successes. This is not the time to lament the need for change. There is an opportunity to be boldly audacious in creating new options to benefit all Dieringer students.





The Dieringer School District will provide all students with appropriate high-quality programs in a safe, challenging and inclusive school environment.

BUDGET COMMITTEE CHARGE

To consider program options that will address the achievement gap experienced by various subgroups within the District, while acknowledging that this will require changes to the current instructional model.

FINANCIALS

Expected revenue for 2024-2025
\$28,950,000

Projected expenditures prior to
budgetary changes
\$31,050,000

Difference = **\$2,100,000**



SUMMARY

The budget needs to be right-sized such that no more than \$1,000,000 of fund balance is used for the 2024-2025 school year. By the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the budget must be balanced to revenue.



The road for
Dieringer can
continue to lead to
bright places.



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Thank you.

Commonly Used Acronyms

BEA - Basic Education Allocation

SpEd - Special Education

CTE - Career and Technical Education

ALE - Alternative Learning Experience

FTE - Full Time Equivalent

MSOC - Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs

CAS - Certificated Administrative Staff

CIS - Certificated Instructional Staff

CLS - Classified Staff

