



03/05/2024

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Dear Edina Public Schools Staff, Parents and Guardians,

The Edina Public Schools' School Board voted unanimously last night, March 4, 2024, to approve the option A-1 cost containment that would close a budget gap in the next fiscal year. The board's decision provides short-term financial stability and ensures our district sustains its excellent programs and services, while also adhering to board fund balance policy.

As you may be aware, Edina Public Schools, like many others across the metro area, is facing challenges stemming from high inflation and increasing labor costs that exceed the incremental funding provided by the state. The Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD) announced that more than 70% of member districts are collectively facing over \$300 million in shortfalls this year. To address this, Edina Public Schools was led to implement a cost containment totaling \$3.62 million for the 2024-2025 school year.

After engaging in discussion with the board over the past month, a decision has been made to delay implementing a portion of the cost containment measures that directly impact school staffing. Instead, the board has voted to sustain \$800,000 of our debt through a capital note and take action on the remaining \$2.8 million budget reduction, reallocation, and revenue generation items proposed through this process. In regards to school staffing, the board's decision includes a small reduction in media specialists (1.5 FTE) and nursing (1 FTE). (A full list of the items is contained in the table at the end of this message.)

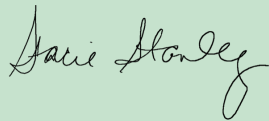
This decision allows the board more time to explore revenue generation possibilities and evaluate other cost containment strategies and financial levers available to the district. However, it's crucial to understand that this delay does not negate the necessity of implementing cost containment measures in the near future. The gap will remain unless state funding increases, and will continue to grow each year due to interest on the capital loan and rising labor wages and benefits outlined in contractual agreements.

In the coming days and weeks, we will begin formal budgeting activities with school sites and departments, staffing, and posting of authorized vacant positions. We will also continue ongoing research and discussion with our board, staff, parents, and community about our budget gap.

While uncertainties remain, particularly regarding legislative decisions, it's crucial to recognize that public education is historically underfunded. Rest assured, we are committed to supporting our staff, maintaining an exceptional education for our students, and ensuring that Edina Public Schools continues to define excellence in supporting the whole student.

Throughout this process, it has remained clear that our community has a strong commitment to our schools and values the quality of education our students receive. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we navigate these challenges together. It is an honor to serve as your superintendent.

Warm regards,



Dr. Stacie Stanley
Superintendent
Edina Public Schools

Cost Containment	Category	Amount
Administrative Staff Adjustment	Budget Reduction	\$ 243,450
Business Services Staff Adjustment	Budget Reduction	90,600
Multilingual and Achievement & Integration Reorganization	Reallocation	7,300
School Board & Superintendent Office Non-Salary Pause	Budget Reduction	150,000
Curriculum Capital Deferral	Budget Reduction	100,000
Buildings & Grounds, Transportation Capital Deferral	Budget Reduction	275,000
Other Financing Sources	Revenue Generation	800,000
School Site Capital Deferral	Budget Reduction	260,000
Professional Development Adjustment	Budget Reduction	50,000
Medical Bill Reconciliation	Revenue Generation	48,615
Student Support Personnel Aid	Revenue Generation	161,019
Athletic Event Ticket Fee Adjustment	Revenue Generation	47,000
Athletics and Activities Participation Fee Adjustment	Revenue Generation	40,255
High School Parking Fees (+\$150)	Revenue Generation	49,500
Elementary Specialist Rotation Adjustment	Budget Reduction	-
Licensed Media Specialists	Budget Reduction	177,546
Licensed School Nurse Adjustment	Budget Reduction	118,364
Counseling Extra Duty Day Adjustment	Budget Reduction	73,975
Transportation Staff Adjustment	Budget Reduction	77,750
Student Support and Related Service Adjustment	Budget Reduction	150,000
Class-Size Midpoint Open Enrollment	Revenue Generation	215,000
Talent Development Licensed Staff Adjustment	Budget Reduction	177,546
Elementary School Licensed FTE Efficiency	Budget Reduction	118,364
Middle School Licensed FTE Efficiency	Budget Reduction	189,382
Total		\$ 3,620,666

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