

The Board Brief

This edition of *The Board Brief* is a summary of the information discussed at the Board of Education's work session on May 31, 2016.

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Information Presented

Board Continues FY 2017 Budget Discussions

Board members met on Tuesday, May 31, to review the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 General Fund Budget. This was the fourth budget work session led by Chief Financial Officer Ron Collier this budget season. To view the budget presentation, [click here](#).

Mr. Collier presented updated numbers to provide a clearer picture of the District's finances. The following items remained in the proposed budget since the work session on May 10:

- Pay step increase for certified and classified employees;
- Additional administrative and teaching positions, as well as 4 additional counselors and 14 PBIS paraprofessionals for ISS support at the elementary level;
- An additional salary increase for bus drivers and substitute bus drivers – bringing starting pay for bus drivers to about \$17 per hour – to better align drivers' salaries with surrounding counties, as well as an increase in the number of bus driver positions;
- A District-wide reading intervention initiative for elementary schools, as well as other operating costs, such as Leader in Me;
- A summer school program for grades 3, 5 and 8;
- A state health cost increase for classified employees;
- An increase in paraprofessional contract days from 180 to 182;
- Service contracts; and
- Attrition, which is projected to bring an estimated \$1,250,000 in savings.

Additional items in this latest budget preview included a change to local property tax collection figures based on funding received this year, as well as the following items:

- 30 additional minutes for all school-based Clerk I positions (from 7.5 to 8 hours per day);
- 5 additional days for elementary Clerk I positions (from 195 to 200 days); and
- Rule 10 Special Education (Support Certification State Grant).

The discussion among Board members included a review of the District's fund balance, cost-cutting measures, and proposed pay increases for employees. Also, Board members discussed the idea of a possible property tax increase of about 2 mills, which would cover the District's \$5 million deficit and provide a permanent 3 percent pay increase for employees (about \$4 million). Discussion around the pay increase included the desire to remain competitive with other districts around the state that are also providing pay increases for employees, and providing students and teachers with the resources needed to improve academic achievement. To view additional information about a possible pay increase and/or tax increase, [click here](#).

A meeting to review the FY 2017 General Fund Budget for tentative adoption has been scheduled for Monday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m. To view information from budget work sessions on March 15, April 19 and May 10, visit <http://bcsdk12.net/Page/30226>.