

EAST ISLIP

Board of Education Response to BAC Recommendations

Presented by:

The Board of Education

Mr. John Dolan, Superintendent

Mr. Stephen D. Harrison, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mr. Paul Manzo, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Personnel

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Committee Members

- Joann Walsh – Co-Chairperson
- Michael Dorgan - Presenter
- Anne-Marie Orgera – Minutes
- Robert Schumacher
- Toni Brauneisen
- Brian Meehan


BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Bond Project):

The BAC strongly supports the district's decision for a bond to cover the cost of improvements we so desperately need. We recommend utilizing the full bond amount to maximize the improvements to all facilities. If the scheduled projects are completed under budget, we endorse revisiting additional projects that fall within the scope of what was approved by the community

BOE Response:

The BOE will consult with its bond counsel and fiscal advisor to determine what options are available, should scheduled projects be completed under budget.



BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Reserves):

- The BAC strongly supports the district's decision to establish a Repair Reserve that can fund non-recurring repairs to capital assets.
- The BAC recommends using down the capital reserve fund to complete projects not addressed under the current proposed budget or the bond
- We continue to support funding both reserves with surplus going forward

BOE Response:

- The funding of a Repair Reserve requires voter approval, which will be sought through a proposition on the ballot during the budget vote on May 21st.
- Use of the Capital Reserve also requires voter approval, but is not being considered at this time. Small capital projects are in the 2019/20 Budget and are being financed with appropriated surplus.
- The BOE will continue to consider funding reserves, should the District have surpluses in the future.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Furniture):

Recommend funding the entire 1.4 million dollars for furniture replacement throughout the district but it must be done without cutting other areas of the budget.

BOE Response:

The proposed budget for 2019/20 includes \$700,000 for the purchase of classroom furniture. It is anticipated that the remaining \$700,000 will be budgeted the following year.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Security and Phone System):

- Review of annual policies and procedures of all security personnel on a on-going basis
- We encourage a new phone system as equipment that is necessary for the safety of our staff and students in all buildings

BOE Response:

- The District continues to meet with the Security Consultant and appropriate law enforcement officials, both informally and formally, to review policies and procedures.
- Planning for installation and implementation of security vestibules.
- The District is in the process of reviewing telecommunication options and plans to collaborate with ESBOCES in anticipation of purchasing a new VOIP phone system prior to September 2019.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Printing and Technology):

- All buildings should change to a centralized printing network system. This would reduce the cost of printing, supplies and maintenance
- Continue use of a centralized system for ordering new technology to be consistent throughout buildings/grades/classrooms ensuring equity between all schools.
- We fully support the increase of technology in our schools, however, professional development must accompany the introduction of any new technology so it is utilized

BOE Response:

- An analysis may be undertaken during the 2019/20 school year to examine the costs and efficiencies gained by centralizing the print function.
- Technology hardware needs are regularly assessed. Partial replacement of obsolete equipment occurs annually, in an effort to keep replacement costs manageable.
- Technology purchases will continue to be coordinated centrally via the Executive Director.
- The Board and Administration are aware of, and support the need for increased professional development as it relates to planned technology expenditures. The District's Professional Development Plan includes technology resources, with needs being continually assessed.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Facilities):

- To reduce the amount of money spent on outsourcing contract repairs and all emergency work, we suggest hiring facilities professional(s) as needed.
- We see these position(s) as a long-term benefit to help maintain all work that will be completed under the bond. In addition, will help **avoid** returning to a level of disrepair
- We continue to support Building/Grounds in-house work, with our equipment, during the school day whenever possible

BOE Response:

- Continued support for Maintenance Mechanic VI position in 2019/20 Budget.
- The BOE is proposing a Repair Reserve that would fund non-recurring repairs to capital assets.
- The BOE continues to support in-house work with budgeted equipment purchases.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Overtime):

The BAC strongly encourages an annual review of overtime costs to analyze the benefit of hiring additional staff vs. paying current staff overtime for example weekend events

BOE Response:

- Overtime is pre-approved by an administrator and the need is driven by a specific project, event or activity.
- The District will continue to assess overtime costs in an effort to complete as many projects as possible during the normal work day, however due to contractual restrictions and inadequate staffing, many of these projects extend beyond normal hours. Each project assigned to the staff is analyzed to determine the lowest cost option.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Transportation):

- In preparation of the upcoming RFP we would like to ask that the district re-evaluate and take into consideration the following:
 - Possible future vote to align mileage requirements for grade levels within each school
 - Ridership in regard to any change in alignment
 - Reevaluate start times to help the elementary families

BOE Response:

- The District will work with the contracted transportation vendor, as well as software vendor, to analyze the impact of recommended changes.
- May lead to increased costs due to buses currently planned to maximum capacity.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Vocational Programs):

- EISD should continue to establish in-house Vocational programs for the most requested trades based on interest
- We are encouraged by the BOCES vocational offerings and support future expansion of the program as these programs are necessary for those students that are not college bound

BOE Response:

- In an effort to provide 21st Century Opportunities, the District supports the proper balance between In-house and BOCES occupational education programs.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Building Utilization):

With over a decade of declining enrollment and with this trend projected to continue through 2023 (see long range study below), the BAC recommends – as they have every year since 2011/2012 – an evaluation of building use/capacity. We recommend the district continue to make this a focus in future planning.

BOE Response:

- The District has been pro-active in leasing space to outside concerns (Cleary, ESBOCES, South Shore, and Little Angels).
- Facilities usage was part of the Long Range Planning Committee's focus.
- ADA compliance may impact the amount of unused space in some of the buildings.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Personnel):

- The budget should continue to reflect the teacher/pupil ratio
- Teacher/student load in the HS should be done efficiently in order to help increase Electives throughout all subject areas. This could provide viable options, instead of Study Halls, to make for a well-rounded student. This could help to maintain the number of teachers while enhancing our course selections in order to fill a student's full 9-period day

BOE Response:

- The District continues to offer a variety of electives. When student interest does not meet class size minimums an elective course may be removed from the course offerings for that particular year or may be offered every other year.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Grants):

- The district should seek additional areas of financial resources in the form of grants
- Grant writing should be done by district member(s) of the current staff and administrative team
- There are invaluable resources and funding opportunities that would enhance the current curriculum and overall educational experience of our students
 - e.g. PEP Grant – Which East Islip won many years ago (\$100,000+)

BOE Response:

- The Board of Education and Central Administration are considering hiring a grant writer that would be tasked with finding new grant opportunities that would financially justify this new position.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Clubs):

- In order to help build a well-rounded student, we recommend expanding clubs at the Elementary level
- Should there be a budget surplus at years' end, a portion of the monies should be returned to next year's budget and be dedicated to student needs i.e., replacing furniture, books, instruments, and classroom supplies on a continual basis

BOE Response:

- The 2019/20 Budget maintains elementary school clubs that were restored in 2018/19.
- Historically the Board of Education has supported the expenditure budget with appropriated surplus and/or reserves.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation (Budget):

- We concur that attempts to fulfill Principal and Director's budget requests throughout the district as long as they pertain directly to the students needs or safety of all staff and students be met starting with and not limited to: textbooks, age appropriate books to their reading libraries, new Science programs for elementary students, additional technology and supplies.
- Given the limited budget for Principals and Director's the following should not have to be included in their budgets: fencing, landscaping and signage.

BOE Response:

- Every Student Succeeds Act requires per student expenditures that are equitable across the District in each building for items listed above.
- In general, expenditures relating to Grounds are not included in the building or department level budgets.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BAC Recommendation:

- Thank you for providing a representative from the BOE for this year's BAC
- Prior to the committee reconvening next year, the BAC would like to sit with two board members to assess our recommendations. We are seeking a more constructive dialog so that the BAC will be better prepared for the next budget cycle

BOE Response:

- The Board supports a meeting with the committee, prior to reconvening in December.
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Thank You

- **Questions and Comments**