

25/26 Budget Adjustment

November 6th, 2025

Governing Board Study Session with Reduction Process
Updates and a Review of Balsz School Sites

Communication Efforts with Staff

All school based staff meetings have concluded

- Staff asked questions about the reduction process with concerns involving being the best schools that can address the “whole” child.
- Staff desired knowing the specific roles that would be considered in reduction.
- Staff requesting knowing a decision sooner, understanding the process to reduce in staffing, and continued communication and transparency.

Larger Communication Efforts to All Stakeholders

Communications to all stakeholders remain high.

- Emails to staff as well as reminders via school leaders as needed
- Social media posts, Emails, phone blasts, text messages, and flyers home with all students for families
 - Over 2500 fliers distributed via schools and partners with 1500 more to be ordered with an updated flyer to increase more community participation
- Survey responses are up to 171 with strong efforts of schools requesting the involvement of parents while at events and the student pick-up and drop-off.
- Paper copies of the survey will be available at the community forums and distributed to schools as needed.

Survey Data Update

Thanks to our schools for their pushes at their sites to get more parents/families involved!

October 28th update:

- 43 responses
 - 10 parents
 - 31 staff members,
 - 2 community members

November 6th update:

- 171 responses
 - 80 parents
 - 85 staff members
 - 6 community members
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Current Survey Results

Question #1

What do you believe are the top priorities that should be protected as the district considers budget reductions?

50% or Higher:

1. Student Learning Quality
2. Special Education Programs
3. Teacher Pay and Class Size

Other items include, but are not limited to: meals, not closing schools, specials and after school programs (extra-curricular activities).

Current Survey Results

Question #2

Are there programs, services, or resources you feel are essential to preserve?

50% or Higher:

- 1) Special Education Programs
- 2) Homework Support and After School Mentoring
- 3) Social Services including meals and counseling services

Other items include, but are not limited to: Art, Music, and Physical Education, Reading and Math Support, and Teacher and Staff Professional Development

Current Survey Results

Question #3

Do you have any specific questions about the budget process or reductions?

50% or Higher:

- 1) Will my school close?
- 2) When will I know if my school will close?
- 3) When will I know about my job?

Other items include, but are not limited to: class size, and who decides and how.

Current Survey Results

Question #4

What concerns do you have about how reductions might affect students, staff, or the community?

50% or Higher:

- 1) Will my school close? (Not my school)
- 2) Larger class sizes
- 3) Special Education Impact

Other items include, but are not limited to: empty buildings in the community or the building being sold for something else, education impact on a needed population, reduction in whole child support.

Community Forums

To be facilitated by the Arizona School Board Association

- Brief introductions
- Brief offering of the issue at hand
- Open forum

We are planning for 100+ audience members with additional seating available.

Spanish and Somali interpreters will be available with headsets, as needed.

Printed copies of the Stakeholder Survey will be provided.

Details on School Sites

Considering any repurpose of a school site, we need to look at some variables.

While student enrollment is a key data point to review, we need to also review each building site to consider the cost of management and pending financial impacts.

The next few slides will offer a better understanding of Balsz Schools to add to the conversation of identifying the site to possibly repurpose.

Current School Enrollment

2025/26 School Year

Brunson Lee Elementary: 369

Crockett Elementary: 478

Griffith Elementary: 387

Tillman Middle School: 533

School Sites

Current Cash Value Assessment

Brunson Lee (2004):	\$38,876,069
Crockett (1998):	\$23,356, 800
Griffith (1951):	\$20,815,166
Tillman (2001):	\$48,750,483
Orangedale (1958):	\$22,892,460

Recent Investments in Property

Reviewing Balsz ESD sites and their overall value, a key data point is to consider the recent repairs and upgrades.

Balsz ESD has the unique “obstacle” that **all** school sites have received substantial upgrades over the past 4-5 years.

While Tillman received a higher percentage of upgrades as a remodel, other schools have seen millions of dollars in property improvements.

Thus, the investment in improvement costs is not a major factor.

Future Improvement Costs

All schools need continuous improvements for appropriate management.

However, expenditures to the district varies as some are ***needs*** versus ***wants***.

An example would be playgrounds or lights, versus roofing, plumbing, HVAC, etc..

The next slide will present the needs of school sites in the next 12 - 24 months.

Future Improvements vs Cash Value

Brunson Lee
Elementary School
1350 N 48th Street

- A/C units school wide replacement \$1,400,000
- Restroom upgrades \$ 500,000
- Classroom painting \$ 250,000
- Water tower refurbish \$ 75,0000

\$ 2,225,000 Total pending costs

\$38,876,069 Cash Value Assessment

\$36,651,069 Potential Value

Future Improvements vs Cash Value

Crockett
Elementary School
501 N 36th Street

- Chiller \$450,000
- Restroom upgrades \$600,000
- Classroom painting \$300,000

\$1,350,00 Total pending costs

\$23,356,800 Cash Value Assessment

\$22,006,800 Potential Value

Future Improvements vs Cash Value

Griffith
Elementary School
4505 E Palm Lane

- Chiller \$450,000
- Restroom upgrades \$500,000
- Classroom painting \$300,000
- Roofs \$1,300,000

\$2,550,000 Total pending costs

\$20,815,166 Cash Value Assessment

\$18,265,166 Potential Value

Future Improvements vs Cash Value

Tillman
Middle School
4309 E Belleview Street

- Chiller - \$400,000
- A/C unit replacement, cafe, and 200 building - \$750,000
- Restroom upgrades - \$650,000

\$1,800,000 Total pending costs

\$48,750,483 Cash Value
Assessment

\$46,950,483 Potential Value

All Things Financially Considered for School Site Repurpose

Based on our most recent demographic information, more potential multi-family living units will be mostly centralized within the district boundaries.

We currently have seen a strong dip in two Kindergarten cohorts at Griffith and data expects a continued decline.

Demographic data reports the highest potential decline at Crockett over 10 years at 95 students.

All schools are projected to lose more students and Brunson Lee is projected to land under 300 by 2034/2035.

Larger Reduction Model Update

The original reduction was more aggressive than needed on purpose to prepare for negotiations/compromise.

Based on the early assessment of survey responses, there was “moderate” survey emphasis on specific roles.

By adjusting for roles to insure schools have arts enrichment and socio-emotional support, we could reach the \$3 million dollar ask.

We would still need to consider other options to reduce during 26/27 and into the future as needed for more “breathing room”.

A Moment for Questions, Clarification, and Discussion

Next Steps

We will host our first community forum on Monday, November 10th at the Community Center.

By the end of the school day on Monday, specific employees will be emailed notifying them their position is being discussed in these conversations regarding possible budget adjustments.

Teachers will also be reminded that certification and appropriate endorsements are required for standard employment as a teacher and our first objective is to have certified teachers in all classrooms.

During the month of November, we will offer "Interest Letters" to staff to pulse check for the percentage of employees who plan to and would like to return 26/27.

Arizona School Board Association Update

To offer connection with the efforts and action of ASBA, I wanted to defer my time to Julie Bacon.

The ASBA has been an asset in many ways and we look forward to seeing more of their support in the months ahead.