

Meeting Minutes - ISC General Meeting

Location: District Administrative Building (DAO), Room 264
Date: September 13, 2016
Time: 9:30 am

Presentation: Mr. Robert Copeland, LMSD Superintendent presented State of the District

- I. Instituted partner schooling to keep low class sizes to meet expected 8500 enrollment
 - A. wound up to be not necessary since have about 130 less students than expected.
 - B. two demographers working to plan how many students will be here in future

Presenter Terry Quinlan (Health Services)

- II. New Student services wellness speaker series
 - 1. This year will have in addition to Wellness Council a speaker series working through the Wellness council
 - 2. See handout for draft of what is expect and later will be posted on Wellness Council Website
- B. Some Programs are geared to specific age groups of children

Presenter Mr. Copeland

- III. General updates
 - A. Penn Wynne
 - B. BCMS enrollment is growing due to growth in elementary feeder schools
- IV. Law Suit
 - A. fund balance
 - 1. Claim: district has funds available, saving them away and not using them and raising taxes
 - 2. Three overarching themes we budget for in district
 - a) how do we budget for state and federal mandates
 - b) school board requirements
 - c) budgeting for core values (what the community wants to do)
 - (1) e.g. students can take more classes than required and would require extra staffing
 - (a) LM has done this for years, but is something that adds value and that LM does
 - (2) Levels of services
 - (a) LM supports low class sizes although not required
 - (3) High regard for facilities in the community
 - (a) things are not value engineered down
 - (4) Budget for the worst case scenario and hope for the best
 - (a) eg. snow removal
 - (5) High level of staffing to meet needs for kids with special needs, which includes gifted

- (a) we would never make a placement based upon the cost but based upon the needs of the kids
- (b) new hire to make program evaluations within the district who reports directly to superintendent
 - i) gift/talented program is the first one under review
 - ii) future: AP programs, math programs
 - iii) this is a value added program
- (c) Will be presented at education meeting
- (6) 1.2 million allocated for charter schools
 - (a) PA mandate school districted to provide but unfunded
 - (b) \$19K on standard for all levels if there is an IEP it goes up to over 40 million for all IEPs
 - i) this is the level that the district provides however IEPs are based on services for children
 - (1) the charters can use special funds more than for special services if services cost less but district must keeps funds within special
 - (2) state legislature need to change laws to ensure that district is not funding the business but the student
- 3. Claim: Too much money left over is too much
 - a) see <http://www.lmsd.org/news/article/index.aspx?LinkId=6840&ModuleId=22> for details of this information below
 - b) Total fund balance 21.6% of the total District 2016-17 budget being about \$55.9 million total fund balance, allocated as follows in compliance with the law:
 - (1) 15 million for future capital projects,
 - (2) \$15.3 for PSER (state pension system)
 - (a) state predicts to rise to 20 million in 5 years
 - (3) other employees benefits \$5 million
 - (4) Rate stabilization is half a million since not a fixed
 - (5) \$10 facilities
 - (6) 20 million unassigned of which is \$11 million is for responsible financing and 9 million to cover deficit this year
 - (a) state requires it to be below 8%. The district is at 4% is well in compliance
 - (7) We are in the majority of most communities with 1/3 of districts having a higher fund balance.
 - (a) 168th/500
 - c) audited every year and every 2-3 years an auditor general makes an audit and all years the audits have been clean. Fund balance in last audited year
- B. Claim: Transparency
 - 1. claim that it is happening not in the open - refute since all is happening at meetings that are open to the public.
- C. District Respectfully disagree with the judges decision at the common plea court
 - 1. next step is that the district has retained an attorney and was officially agreed to be hired by board at 9/12/16 board meeting
 - a) filed an appeal at the common court
 - b) asked for emergency relief
 - (1) already started budgeting for next year
 - c) board put \$4 million in escrow as a good faith effort on part of the district in case district loses appeal, the funds are available

- d) See minutes: https://www.lmsd.org/data/files/news/LMSD_Board_Business_Meeting_Highlights/September_13_2016_Education_Supplementary_Regular_Mtg_Highlights.pdf
- V. Questions about responding to current research
 - A. meta analysis of student learning done by researchers
 - 1. major part about staff development to meet needs
 - 2. e.g Homework should not be an extension of teaching time but a reinforcement of what is teaching
 - a) Homework policy is under the Board Section of LMSD.org -
 - (1) look under the Administration Regulation for the information about specific parameters for assigning homework