

CBAC Questions from Meeting #2 - September 26

Questions Asked	Response
What is the difference between a \$.04 tax and a \$.06 tax?	That information is included in the PPT from Meeting #3.
Taxed at \$1.17, what would that mean to a taxpayer? What would an average homeowner pay on \$100,000?	That information is included in the PPT from Meeting #3.
How do you get a TRE?	If the Board of Trustees sets a M&O tax rate above \$1.04, a statutory requirement is triggered for them to also call for a Tax Ratification Election. In order for that rate to become effective, the voters must approve the ballot proposition.
What increase can we get without an election?	None. We are currently at the maximum rate allowed without an election. Both a 2-cent Tax Swap and a full or partial TRE would require voter approval.
Funding for Resource Officers: Is the state share expensive?	School Resource Officers (SROs) are local police officers that work in our schools. The district pays 50% of the salary and the specific police departments pay the other 50% of the salary. The state does not provide any funding for SROs.
What percentage of positions would you say you are not going to fill? Needing to keep in mind that you could be losing your best person for the position.	The number and/or percentage of personnel reductions would be determined based on what the total budget balancing plan looks like as it takes shape. In any event, there will be professional judgment applied when an opening exists to ensure that we have the best quality employees serving our students.
What is the percentage of employer coverage on health insurance?	The State of Texas provides \$75 per employee per month for its contribution toward Health Benefits and mandates that the local district must provide a minimum of \$150 additional per employee each month. So, the minimum is \$225 per month for employees. Yet, LISD and many other school districts which we compete with offer much higher contributions. The LISD minimum contribution for employee only per month is \$326.
What is a Waiver? How is it used?	A classroom size waiver is a mechanism where a school district can get permission from the State to go over the 22:1 class size in grades K-4. For example, if you have three 1st grade classes at a school and they each have 22 students in them, there is no need for a waiver. However, if another 1st grader moves into the neighborhood and enrolls in that school, then one of the 1st grade classes will now have 23 students - thus requiring a waiver.

How do we feel about numbers of student/teacher ratio?	LISD works hard to minimize class size waivers. If we had our wish, we would not increase class sizes, particularly in grades K-2.
Is there a different requirement for staffing Special Education students?	There are no specific staffing guidelines (from the State or anywhere else) regarding the various programs for Special Education. Of course, it calls for individualized instruction which is very different for different kids.
Has the high school ratio of 26:1 changed in the last few years?	Four years ago, the HS staffing guidelines were 25:1 but this year the ratio was 26:1.
CCE, LLC and DJCC – does the ratio apply the same? Are these classes full day or partial day programs?	Classes at both CCE and DJCC (Career Centers) are half-day programs. Classes at LLC are full-day. These campuses are staffed differently than the 26:1 high school student-teacher ratio.
What is % of students in specialized classes at CCE, LLC, and DJCC, that go into field they're studying?	There is no reliable data available to track the career path of students after they leave high school.
Who pays for DAEP?	School districts the size of LISD are required by law to have a DAEP program and the cost is part of the district's budget.
Do you have a model that you use for the district telling you if you are doing a good job on staffing at a campus?	Analysis of staffing is an ongoing process. Decisions related to the number of positions are based in part on student enrollment projections. We delay the decision until we see the students in situations where there is uncertainty about the enrollment numbers.
What are your controls and how do you measure?	Controls over hiring are in place in that all offers are made through the Employee Services department. An offer of employment cannot be made for a position that has not been authorized.
How do you know the costs at each school are and that some schools cost more than others?	Direct costs are charged to the campus where the costs are incurred and/or used. The costs of district-wide services are not allocated to campuses. Thus, we do know what the direct costs are for each campus.
Why is that school more expensive?	Differences in costs at each campus are primarily attributable to the needs of the students served on each respective campus.
Are school districts allowed to have partnerships with businesses? Other than a clothes donation, one with cash to help the fund?	Yes. However, the magnitude of dollars needed to significantly move the needle on a budget the size of the LISD budget makes it very difficult to find businesses willing to make donations of that size.
Can health insurance be used towards SPED programming with the district eating the co-pays so it's still free to all, but maybe insurance would cover some expenses?	Federal law requires that public school districts provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to special education students. Involving insurance companies would likely be contrary to federal law.
Do we have market analysis of property value	Our projections from Templeton Demographics show consistent strong

projections? Are we expecting a market correction soon?

economic conditions, particularly in job creation (in total jobs, DFW lags only behind NYC over the last 12 months). Home values continue to rise. As long as the unemployment stays low and job creation stays high, the real estate market will remain strong. Every indication is that people continue to move to the DFW area at a rate that exceeds the available inventory.