

President Jim Ash convened the meeting with Peter Baron, Bowie Hogg, Mike O'Donnell, Wayne Ogle, Gloria Peña, Sherri Wade and Jerry McCullough present.

Discussion Item - Scheduling Options for Secondary Schools

- Interim Superintendent Jerry McCullough provided background information on district financial concerns that have led the district to investigate all opportunities to reduce costs. He stated that while any change in scheduling would be difficult, the current state funding formula has put the district in the position to make tough decisions to balance its budget. Before introducing the staff presentation, McCullough concluded that the district would do everything possible to minimize the impact scheduling changes would have on students.

- Cindy Powell, executive director of finance, provided an overview of the district's current financial status and projections through the 2012-2013 school year.

- Due to the current state funding formula, which has frozen district revenues at 2006-2007 levels without any compensation for inflation, the AISD has adopted deficit budgets for the past two years.

- With no change in the M&O tax rate, state funding or district expenditures, including no raises, the AISD will realize a deficit fund balance in 2011-2012.

- Before the 2008-2009 budget was adopted by the Board, \$10.8 million in reductions were made.

- Dr. Marcelo Cavazos, interim deputy superintendent, presented possible options for changing block scheduling at the high school level and teaming at the junior high level to reduce expenditures.

Four options were presented for high school scheduling.

- 4/3 Block – This option would not affect student credit opportunities but would reduce the number of teacher conference periods for a projected savings of \$7.5 million per year. (The current 4/4 block for students will not change with this option.)

- Traditional (7 period) – This option would reduce the credit opportunities for students and shorten teacher conference periods for a projected savings of \$6.6 million per year.

- Hybrid of Block & Traditional – This option would not affect student credit opportunities. Depending on how the program is implemented, teacher conference periods could be shortened daily, reduced to every other day or split daily with a portion duty-free and the remaining time on duty. The projected savings of this option is \$5 – \$7.5 million per year.

- Current A/B Block with Increased Staffing Formula – This option would not affect student credit opportunities or teacher conference periods; however, class sizes would increase. The projected savings for this option is \$4.3 million per year.

Two options were presented for junior high teaming.

- No Team Concept – This option would eliminate teachers' team planning period with no changes to student instruction time for a projected savings of \$4.5 million per year.

- Adjust Staffing Formula – This option would maintain the team planning periods for core subject teachers. There will be no change to student instruction time; however, class sizes will be increased. The projected savings of this option is \$2.6 million per year.

With all options, high school and junior high, no positions will be immediately eliminated. The savings will take place through attrition. It is projected to take three years for the full savings to be realized. Dr. Cavazos also informed the Board that eliminating or reducing any of the following courses/programs would realize no savings because they are funded through a special state allotment.

- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Career and Technical Education*
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)*
- Plato*
- Dual Credit

* Programs are offered in both high school and junior high.

- The Board asked clarifying questions of staff and through discussion, reached consensus that there is no interest in a high school seven period day or any option that would reduce student credit opportunities. The Board asked staff to provide additional information on the high school 4/3 block and hybrid block options and the junior high team teaching concept for review and discussion during the Nov. 20 board meeting. The topic will be posted as an agenda item. The Board invited the public to sign up and share their views on the topic in open forum.



Action Item

- **Consider appointment of bond committee and approval of a charge to the committee** – The Board members expressed their opinions regarding the need for and the feasibility of a bond election. After extensive discussion, a motion was made to appoint a committee but was not seconded. The motion failed.