TO: School Board of Directors  
FROM: Ben C. Small, Superintendent  
DEPT: Office of the Superintendent  
DATE: May 28, 2019  
RE: Recommendations for Modified Education Program

Our Guiding Principle: Maintain as many direct services and engagement opportunities for students as possible. Throughout this process, we have been informed and guided by our Strategic Plan and the many community and staff engagement activities that we have conducted to this point.

We will continue to prioritize student safety to include social emotional learning and safe and orderly learning environments. Therefore, we will work to keep in place counselor, social work, social emotional learning initiatives, PBIS, MTSS, Behavior Intervention Technicians, and school safety personnel.

Timeline

February 11, 2019, the school board added the district’s support of the WASA Hold Harmless Proposal to the board’s Legislative Platform and under the direction of the Board; I sent a letter of support for the proposal to all local legislators.

April 8, 2019, the school board passed Resolution 19-13 regarding budget reductions, reallocations, and employee adjustment.

April 22, 2019, budget update with school board outlining proposed budget actions.

April 28, 2019, legislative session adjourned. The results did not bring relief for the 2019-20 budget beyond what we had anticipated in our earlier budget estimates. We will continue to prepare for the 2019-20 budget with an approximate $12 million deficit to fill.

May 6, 2019, school board work session regarding the 2019/20 budget, extensively detailing and defining the proposed budget actions that were presented on April 22, 2019.

Since February 2019, the Executive Team and I have met and worked with the Resource Study Team, Faculty Communicators, the CVEA and PSE leadership, the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), and our Principals and Assistant Principals. In April, I met with legislators in Olympia. This month I presented our proposed budget cuts to the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber Government Action Committee. I have sent communications about the budget to all district staff and held an informational meeting for all staff.
Recommendations for Modified Education Program

After much consideration of the staff, students, and community that is the Central Valley School District, I recommend the following budget actions.

1. Restructure building and district administration to save one million dollars (an 8.42% reduction) while maintaining a focus on district priorities; teacher evaluation, completion of bond projects, student safety, etc.

2. Save one million dollars in building and department budgets. Out-of-area travel with superintendent approval only.

3. Re-examine the program goals of categorical funds within the context of our new funding reality. We will focus on staffing programs at our high schools that were shifted to levy funds in 2015-16. Programs include AVID, credit retrieval, and reading intervention classes. These programs would be recommended for elimination, but they will be reinstated by using LAP funds.

4. Eliminate technology refresh, other technology spending and create a plan for maintaining efforts and restoring funding. This plan will be presented to the School Board this summer.

5. Restructure classified staff positions in order to create more full-time positions in order to maximize resources within the realities of SEBB implementation.

6. Adjust staffing in departments and programs to maximize work processes and products to create efficiency.

7. Reduce certificated instructional staff to get us to a sustainable range of the prototypical school model. Maximize K-3 staffing, while meeting requirements to receive state class size reduction funding (target an average K-3 class size of 18 to 1).

8. Cut $450,000 from the curriculum budget. Adjust the adoption timeline to maximize resources.

9. Eliminate district-funded Dean of Students positions.

10. Reduce 12 custodial staffing positions.

In past budget processes, we have been able to separate out reductions into tiered priorities. However, the depth of these cuts, I believe precludes us from taking the same approach. We have outlined $12,445,000 in cuts in order to address the budget shortfall. Our approach has been, “What can we accomplish with what we have?” I believe this plan maintains as many direct services and engagement opportunities for students as possible, while keeping a focus on the goals laid out in our strategic plan. Although not easy these budget reductions are necessary to keep the district positioned to meet the needs of our students.

I recommend the Central Valley School District modified education program based on the budget actions as outlined.