

Field Mighty Mice Miller Moments

March 8, 2016

Thank you:

Thank you to all of the families that took the Field Priority Survey in preparation for the school budget season. When reviewing the responses we identified a couple of trend areas: bring back visual arts, make sure we are supporting advanced and struggling learners and revamping the Spanish program; the strongest being the return of visual arts for students.

Budget:

At a principals' meeting Superintendent Graff gave us a history of MPS overspending since the school year 2010-2011- the last time MPS had a balanced budget. He explained that for next year we need to factor in the following: special education compliance laws (case load numbers), salary increases, literacy curriculum, unexpected costs, utility/facility costs, what MPS pays for transportation, and inflation. He continued to explain that we need to change the budget culture of overspending in MPS and that it will take two budget cycles to remedy the instability of the budget.

Below were some key points that were shared with us as to the superintendent's expectations of us as school leaders:

1. We were not allocated our budget until March 1st so that it was completely ready and shared with the school board.
2. Our decisions must be aligned to the core goals of Acceleration 2020:
 - a. Improved Student Outcomes
 - b. Equity
 - c. Family and Community Partnership
 - d. Effective Teachers, School Leaders and Staff
 - e. Stewardship
 - f. Resources for Students and Schools
3. Manage Class sizes – a promise we made to the community through the referendum

Below you will find the comparison of last year's budget allocation and this year's allocation. When you look at the bottom line you will see that we actually have more money. The difference, the increase, is due to the opening of a new city wide special education class called Schooled Based Special Education to work with level three special education students who are in the Field attendance area and wish to attend their home school. That allocation allows for one teacher and two SEAs (Special Education Assistants).

What we are doing now:

1. We are currently working on different budget scenarios making adjustments to bring back visual arts.
2. We need to look at how to loosen up money to fund the art position, a strong priority for the Field community.
3. Special education allocations can only be used for special education.

4. We are looking at health and physical education requirements for grades 5-8. It is an increase to what we are offering this year.

5. With more requirements, students might have a decrease in choices for what they can take next school year for electives because requirements tighten up the schedule.

6. We are holding an informal budget presentation of the different scenarios on Wednesday, March 15th, at 4:00-5:00pm, in the media center.

Funding Type	2016	2017
Class Size Referendum 1096	\$800,080.00	\$791,177.00
Class Size 1001	\$1,279,409.00	\$1,090,281.00
Comp Ed 1031	\$77,479.00	\$132,164.00
Special Ed SERT	\$225,905.00	\$241,213.00
Spec Ed 1004	\$366,461.00	\$546,315.00
Refer Ext FY10-17 1097	\$94,127.00	
Integration Aid (AVID)	\$56,476.00	\$57,891.00
Other(Basic Per Student 1001)		\$208,581.00
TOTAL	\$2,899,937.00	\$3,067,622.00

MCA Testing:

We started MCA testing this week. We are working to have most grade levels take their MCA reading test prior to spring break. Please check the Field web-site for the testing calendar.

Have a great weekend and happy spring?

VaNita Miller

Principal
Field Community Middle School
612-668-3651