



www.cary26.org

Cary District 26 eBulletin

March

Board, Administration, and Community Panel Working Collaboratively to Plan Opportunities for Students

The D26 Community Engagement Committee, Administration, and an advisory panel of community members met for its second meeting of the year this past month. The group is currently exploring alternative methods and models to assist the District and parents in finding additional opportunities for students in areas that have been eliminated or reduced for next year. Due to funding shortfalls, the instructional level for Art, Music, PE, and Gifted will be reduced for next year and Band will be eliminated. The group's goal is to work collaboratively with teachers, PTOs, the Cary 26 Education Foundation, local and outside agencies, businesses, and community volunteers to offer programs to Cary students. Mary Dudek, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented possible instructional delivery models for programs next year. The presentation, *Program Delivery Alternatives: Exploration of Program Delivery Models for Reduced and/or Eliminated Programs*, is posted on the Cary District 26 website www.cary26.org under the "News" tab. The next Community Engagement meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15th, at 7:00 PM at Cary Jr. High. We welcome the community's input and suggestions!

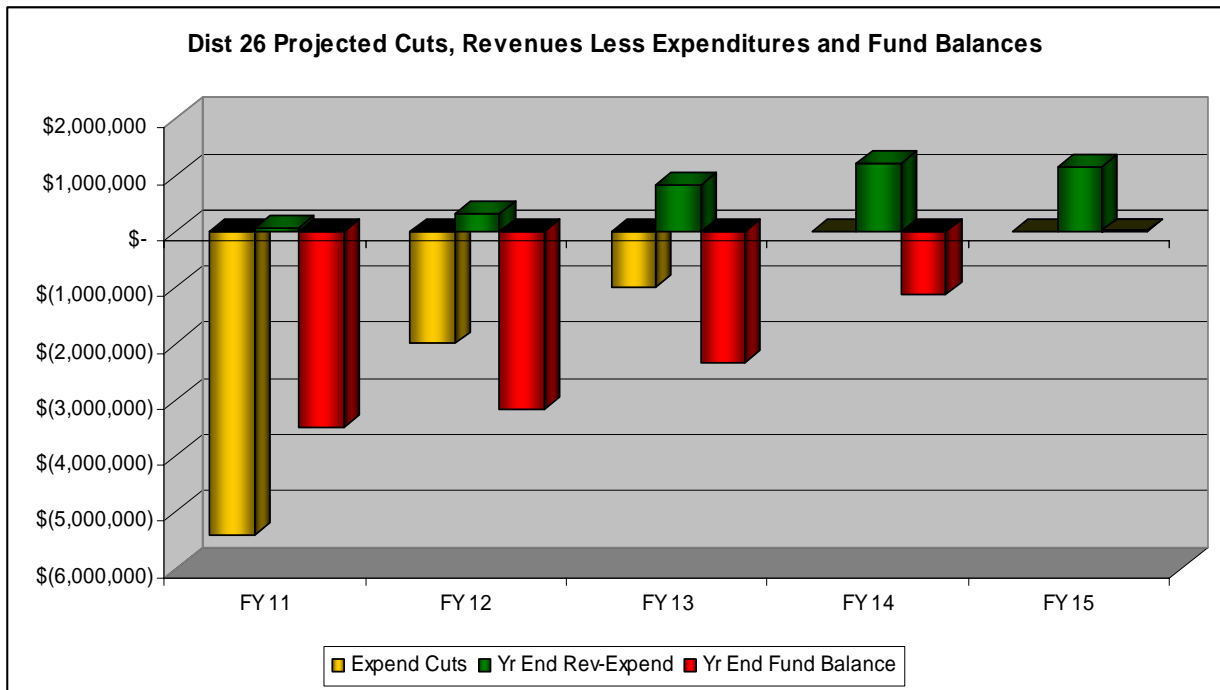
District 26 Takes Full Advantage of Federal Grant

In the late spring of 2009, the Federal Government announced a grant program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to support educational programs in school districts. The State recently approved ARRA Grant technology funding for District 26 to update our student information system and provide more than 250 mobile laptop computers, improving student access to technology and computer-based learning intervention systems. The new student information system, Infinite Campus, will permit the District to phase out several older systems, improving the tracking of student progress on multiple assessments across multiple grade levels. It will also provide parents with greater access to view student learning progress and growth through a "Family Portal." The Family Portal allows parents to see information on achievement tests, grades, attendance, immunization, fees, and discipline. The new student informational system will better support high quality assessments, improve systems used to track student progress, foster improvement in student performance, improve teacher effectiveness and provide support for intensive interventions both in the general classroom and in special education.

5-Year Financial Plan Steers District in the Right Direction

The District Administration presented a 5-Year Financial Plan at the February Board Meeting as it works to set the District on a course for financial recovery. The primary focus of the plan is to steer the District back to financial stability and a positive fund balance by 2015. In order to accomplish this goal, an additional \$2 million in cuts for FY 2012 and \$1 million in cuts for FY 2013 will be needed to move the District out of debt by 2015. The District's financial problems parallel those of many households who find themselves with credit card debt in these difficult financial times. One must not only pay the monthly balance, but also pay a portion of the remaining debt to get back to positive. The District must first get to a financial position where each year it is spending less money than it is taking in. Next year's \$5.4 million in budget balancing cuts will accomplish this goal. The District must then pay down its long standing debt so it can get its account balances back into positive territory.

The bar graph below summarizes this plan. The gold bars represent the amount of cuts that need to occur each year to balance the budget. The green bars represent the savings that will be realized each year and then used to pay down the debt, the red bar. In FY 2015 the District can then begin to build back its fund balance to place the District on a stronger financial foundation.



Board Approvals for February

This past month the D26 Board of Education took the following major actions at their February 22nd Regular Board Meeting. For a complete listing of past Board of Education actions and Minutes of all past Board Meetings, go to www.cary26.org Minutes are posted after they have been approved by the Board.

- Approved ARRA Grant Infinite Campus Contract to upgrade and improve the current student informational system and components. This system upgrade is being funded by the Federal ARRA Grant the District received this year.
- Approved revisions to Policy 2:250, 4:50 and 4:80. The Board of Education Policy Manual can be found on the District's website at www.cary26.org under the heading Board of Education.
- Approved the awarding of the Custodial Outsourcing Bid to Alpha Building Maintenance Service, Inc. in the amount of \$783,354. This represents a cost savings to the District of 20% or \$192,881.
- Approved the 2010-2011 Staffing Plan that reduces 68.2 certified staff positions with an estimated cost savings of \$4.2 million.
- Approved monthly bills and payroll in the amount \$2,470,871.52.

March School Calendar

March 1-12	Achievement Testing
March 5	End of Trimester K-6
March 8	Board Finance Committee - 6:00 p.m. Special Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
March 12	Report Cards K-6
March 15	Board Policy Committee - 5:30 p.m. Board Community Engagement Committee - 7:00 p.m.
March 17	Early Release: School in AM/School Improvement PM
March 22	Board Community Engagement Committee - 6:00 p.m. Regular Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
March 26	End of Quarter – Junior High
March 29-April 2	Spring Break – No School
April 5	Classes Resume