



ISSUE 1, 2019

To the ESASD Community:

The ESASD School Board Directors are pleased to provide a review of our activities over the past year.

In 2017 the community elected three (3) new board members. During 2018 the board appointed two (2) members to fill vacancies. Of the four (4) remaining members three (3) are in their first term. The ESASD board is very young, with the average service on the board under a year.

One of the first activities the board conducted was an informal needs assessment to identify the largest issues facing our district. There were many concerns that have been raised by the community and identified by the board. To address these issues, priority was assigned to facilities and finance. The ESASD Community and state legislators have been led to believe by former Board Directors that in 2017 that we have between a \$47,000,000 to \$54,000,000 General/Capital Reserve funds. This is false. Most of the funds that the district holds beyond the operating budget have been assigned to capital projects or reserves for healthcare and pensions liabilities. There is about \$9,000,000 unassigned. Below are some of the big expenses that will be incurred against reserve funds.

A. Property and Facilities Projects:2018-2020: (Estimated \$17 Million over next two years)

Through many years of neglect and previous boards not addressing basic facility maintenance, the board must now expend millions of dollars. The following are updates on several projects within the district. They must be fixed for the safety and security of our students and staff.



Specific Areas the Board has addressed:

- 1) Preventive maintenance
 - a. In the last year, the Board has authorized the hiring of two (2) personnel to do preventive maintenance for the all district buildings.
- 2) HVAC Systems
 - a. The HVAC system at HSN/LIS will be replaced at a cost of \$2.9 million.
 - b. Bushkill Elementary, which has the same system, is slated to be replaced in 2021 for an estimated cost of \$1 Million.
 - c. Air balancing of the system are not included in the replacement costs.
- 3) HSN/LIS Hot Water Boiler System (Emergency) – (Approximate cost: \$250,000)
- 4) Replacement of Roofs
 - a. HSN/LIS has been approved and should go out for bid in February/March. (Approximate cost: \$8 Million over 2 years)
 - b. Resica Roof – Approximate Cost: \$1 Million
 - c. Middle Smithfield – Cost yet to be determined
 - d. – Estimated \$100,000
- 5) Repaving
 - a. North Campus Repaving - Estimated \$3.5 Million, Split over next two summers.
 - b. Resica- Estimated \$192,000 in 2021
- 6) Auditoriums
 - a. JTL Auditorium - Estimated \$270,000
 - i. Stage Floor – Estimated 45,500
 - ii. Other theatrical and music equipment
 - b. HSS – Stage floor 60,000
- 7) High definition, digital camera system upgrades for schools to improve the safety and response time of



security/police throughout the district – Approximate Cost: \$3.1 Million, Does not include installation

8) North Campus storm drainage system – No cost determination yet-expected to cost millions of dollars. D’Huy Engineering is investigating the issue and will report the findings soon.

9) Lighting upgrades to LED lights (Rebates involved) – North Campus – waiting for proposals. Should result in major savings on electric costs.

10) Athletic Fields

a. HSS Turf Replacement - \$400,000 – not Board approved

b. JTL Cinder Track Replacement - Estimated \$78,000

11) Playgrounds

a. Smithfield Elementary

b. JM Hill

The ESASD Board Directors will continue to identify strategic capital projects that will preserve and enhance the district’s infrastructure for future generations, without incurring additional debt.

It should be noted this School Board inherited these issues and it will take time to correct.

Now for the good news. The Board has diligently worked to improve the students experience in our school system.

B. Policies: (Check actual policy for details)

In the policy area there have been many changes during the year. The Board has been listening to the community and is trying to meet the needs. Some of the changes are:

1) Dress code -Modified to meet parents and students concerns

a. Jeggings are now permitted, as they are considered pants

b. Hooded sweat shirts are now permitted.



- c. ID must be on person but does not have to be visible.
- d. Any colors can be worn
- 2) Student Fundraising, Activity Funds, Crowdfunding rules have been clarified.
- 3) Booster Clubs – Policy being drafted
- 4) School Lunches – All children get the basic lunch rather than cheese or PB&J sandwiches when their lunch money account is overdrawn.
- 5) Use of facilities – Policy changes include free use of facilities for Class I, II and III organizations at no cost, providing the facility is available and has custodial staff on duty. Additional hours may be provided to Class II organizations for two (2), four (4) hour events per year on days where staff would need to be reassigned to cover the duty.

C. Educational Programs

- 1) Emergency Medical Responder Program – earn HS and college credits
- 2) Blended Learning Program has been very successful .
- 3) Special Ed
- 4) JRTOC Starr Club – Starts March 2019

ESS – (Substitute teacher program) Contracted in school year 2018/19 but will not renew the contract as the program did not meet set goals.

D. Financial

- 1) Budget:
 - a. No tax increase in current budget
 - b. Will prepare a balanced budget for next year.
 - c. Provided surpluses in previous years.
- 2) Approved General Fund Spending
- 3) Approved funds for Property & Facilities
- 4) Setting requirements for an RFP for a Forensic Audit



E Other

- 1) Initiated investigation into faulty building construction
- 2) Completed contract with professional staff
- 3) Completed contract with support staff
- 4) Save the district money by procuring additional propane buses

It is the Boards goal to update the community on a quarterly basis as to what is happening within the district. Look for future ESASD Board updates.