

Chippewa Valley Board approves budget balancing action plan

Michigan budget crisis forces district to cut more than \$4.7 million from 2007-2008 budget

On Monday, April 23, 2007, the Chippewa Valley Board of Education voted to approve a budget reduction plan recommended by administration to cut more than \$4.7 million in general fund expenditures for the 2007-2008 school year. These budget cuts came after several months of work between school administrators and the board on how to best balance the budget for the coming year.

Chippewa Valley Schools faces a \$6 million general fund deficit for next year. Since 2002-2003 we have reduced our general fund budget by nearly \$13 million. And we continue to be diligent in managing the district's resources through increased efficiencies and intense budget oversight. Increased operating expenses, escalating retirement and benefit costs, and higher energy bills have made the work of balancing the district's budget increasing difficult.

In addition to the reductions listed below we continue to look for alternative funding sources to support our current programs and services. Things like offering schools of choice for Macomb County families in grades K-12 and opening an evening alternative high school program, both designed to bring in new operating dollars.

Because a large portion of our general fund budget is in the area of wages and benefits we are forced to look for ways to reduce these expenditures. Unfortunately, this will result in a reduction of work time for some of our employees.

Here is the list of revenue enhancements and budget reductions approved by the Board.

Additional revenue enhancements 2007/2008.....\$304,000

- *Increase facility use fees, pre-school tuition, summer school tuition, and community education fees by 10% district-wide.
- *Increase community relations tape sales
- *Increase latchkey rates by 25 cents
- *Increase H.S. parking fees and activity passes (25%)
- *Increase food service meals by 10 cents and milk by 5 cents.

Total general fund budget reductions 2007/2008.....\$4,749,000

- *Delay the opening of both 9th Grade Centers and the New Seneca Middle School
- *Immediate hiring freeze, unless critical need position
- *Reduce contracted services by 20%
- *Continue using existing AP in place of Athletic Director at CVHS
- *Reduce one Secondary Level School Social Work position
- *Adjust Middle and High School Counselor student ratios
- *Reduce supply and material accounts by 20%

- *Create classroom splits at elementary level (possibility of 10 classes)
- *Reduce Para Educator work year
- *Reduce textbook budget by \$294,000
- *Revised school calendar results in \$130,000 savings – fewer full days of school, fewer half days during the school year, and longer school days
- *Human Resource Department - reduce one staff position, eliminate fingerprinting costs
- *Business Office – reduction of purchased services, eliminate one staff position
- *Transportation – eliminate one central office position
- *Technology Department – reduce purchased services
- *Community Relations – reduction of contracted services
- *Maintenance, Custodial, and Transportation reduce purchased services and supply budgets
- *Reduce Board of Education/Administration purchased services
- *Employee cost savings as a result of staff retirements
- *Reduce media clerk positions at the secondary level
- *Energy Savings – eliminate or request reimbursement for non-district equipment (space heaters, coffee pots, microwaves, etc.)

Together, our primary goal was to make the necessary reductions needed to balance our budget with a minimal impact on our staff, students and school community. Although we realize that many of these reductions are painful, we ask that our employees continue to focus on providing the same high level of service to our students and families during these difficult financial times. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our Community Relations Department at dblain@cvs.k12.mi.us.

Thank you.