

Key Communicator

- 1) Q: Did the School Board uphold the reduction in force and if so, what happens if the Levy passes in August?

A: Yes, on June 30, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. the Troy School District Board upheld the reduction in force. The school board will designate which programs and positions will be reinstated if the August Levy of \$995,000 passes. The process of determining which programs will be reinstated will begin at the July 13, 2015 Board meeting.

- 2) Q: When programs and positions are reinstated (if the Levy passes in August), will the same employees be offered back their positions?

A: Yes, according to the Troy School District policy 5740A:

Recall Provisions - If the contract of employment of a teacher is terminated because of the implementation of a Reduction in Force, the name of the teacher shall be placed upon a reappointment list and remain on such list for a period of one (1) year. If a position becomes open during such period, and the teacher has been selected by the Board as a person on the recall list who is Highly Qualified and most capable of holding the position, then the teacher will be notified in writing by certified mail, sent to the last known address, at least thirty (30) days prior to the anticipated date of employment, when possible. In determining whether a teacher is qualified for reappointment, the Board shall consider the criteria as set forth in these procedures. The teacher shall accept or reject the appointment in writing within seven (7) days after receipt of such notification. If the appointment is accepted, the teacher shall receive a written contract within twenty (20) days of receipt of the teacher's reply by the Board. If the teacher rejects the appointment offer or does not respond according to this procedure within seven (7) days after receipt of such notification, the name of the teacher will be removed from the recall list

- 3) Q: Is the breakfast program used as a day care for parents who need to go to work early? What time does the breakfast program start and end?

A: No, breakfast is served for only 30 minutes each morning. Breakfast starts at 7:45 to 8:15 for high school students and 8:00am to 8:15 for elementary.

- 4) Q: How do you decide what financials are posted on the website? Can you combine information so that we can see all the costs associated with a personnel or program?

A: Idaho Code 33-357 directs the posting of expenditures on the website. At this time, expenditures and payroll is posted because that is what was directed for school districts to post monthly. The Board of Trustees should direct any further information to be posted on the

District's Website. A patron can call the district office if he or she would like more information than what is posted on the website.

- 5) Q: How much is the bus reimbursement from the state when buying a new bus?

A: When you purchase a new bus, you get 85% of the allowable depreciation amount reimbursed. Busses are generally depreciated over 12 years at 16.67%.

- 6) Q: What happens to the bus reimbursement money from the state that the district receives?

A: The district is required to put the depreciation funds into a separate account (424) and use those funds for bus purchases only.

Idaho Code section 33-1006 (5):

*The state's share of the transportation support program shall be fifty percent (50%) of reimbursable transportation costs of the district incurred during the immediately preceding state fiscal year, except for the cost of state department of education training and fee assessments and **bus depreciation** and maintenance, for which the state's share shall be **eighty-five percent (85%) of such costs.***

You can find our depreciation calculator
here: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/transportation/library.htm#misc>

Alexandra McCann
Financial Specialist, Sr.
Student Transportation Division
Idaho Department of Education

- 7) Q: Why does the district need money for a bus in the budget if they get reimbursed for it?

A: As stated above, the district receives a percentage of reimbursement. Therefore, we have to budget money in a fund to pay for the bus and once we receive reimbursement for the bus purchased then we use the reimbursement money as well as the money we have budgeted towards the next new school bus.

- 8) Q: Why can't they use one of the buses they already have for sporting events?

A: The district uses the buses we currently have for sporting events. We try to schedule the newest buses that are in the best mechanical condition for the furthest trips. The district tries to stay on a schedule for bus reimbursement, so we do not risk the well-being of our students. Not only can older buses break down on trips and leave students stranded, but one could malfunction due to age and cause a wreck.

9) Q: Is the district going to implement the new career ladder?

A: The district utilizes the new career ladder for salary reimbursement. It is a formula created by the state for salary reimbursement. The district, however, continues to utilize the traditional steps and lanes as a salary schedule to determine teacher salaries.

10) Q: Why do you water the baseball and football field during the summer?

A: The football field is watered during the summer in order to prepare the field for the fall season. We need to have a field that provides enough cushion to help prevent injuries. The field is also used during the summer.

Regarding the baseball field, we appreciate the suggestion and we have decided to not water the baseball field during the summer for this school year. It is our expectation that the lawn will return in the spring.

11) Q: If there are no sports, why are you watering the fields?

A: We are watering the field in hopes that the August Levy passes. We are also using the field during the summer. If the August Levy fails, then we will most likely be re-evaluating the watering of the fields again.

12) Q: What are the supplemental and extended contracts for and what do these contracts cost the district?

Supplemental contracts are for extra duties the teachers have that are above and beyond the school day requirements. Districts all over the nation have supplemental contracts for extra duties. Extended contracts are for teachers in programs that require work beyond the school year. These contracts have been set for many years and will be re-evaluated by the School Board throughout the next couple of months.

The overall cost of these contracts are as follows:

Extended Contracts: \$19,342

Supplemental Contracts: School Activities/Advisors: \$31,351

Coaches Salaries: \$81,321

13) Q: Can people be held liable for posting false information about others on social media (i.e. slander, defamation of character)?

A: This is a legal question and it depends on the content of what is posted and whether it fits the definition of slander and defamation.

14) Q: There are a few people who are answering questions for the district on social media who do not work for the school district. Should we rely on their information as being accurate?

A: Hopefully the Key Communicator Newsletter will allow community members to communicate directly with the Superintendent.

15) Q: Why does the district spend so much money on markers? Do you know how much money is spent on markers?

A: I do not currently know how many markers are in the district. Teachers are usually allotted a small supply budget and they determine how many markers are needed for their classroom.

16) Q: Can you post the meeting notices on the front page of the district's website?

A: We have begun posting meeting notices on the main page of the district's website as well as on the Board page. We will continue to do this throughout the year.

17) Q: Is the school district hiding \$500,000?

A: The district is not hiding money, but to those who do not understand school budget, it may not seem clear to what some monies are budgeted for. Please contact the district office regarding any questions you might have. If you see a line item on the budget that you are unsure of then please contact our Business Manager, Theresa Priebe or Superintendent, Christy Castro and we will explain what the money is budgeted for.

18) Other than the general fund, what "other" money does the district have?

A: Other money the district has/receives (these monies have guidelines regarding how they can be spent):

220 – Federal Forest Funds

230-239 – Special Local Projects (Grants/Donations from Tribes; Outdoor Science Classroom)

240 – Student Occupied Building Maintenance Fund

241-249 – State Special Projects (Drivers Ed; PTE; Technology; Safe & Drug Free; Professional Development; Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI)/Gifted & Talented (GT))

250-289 – Federal Special Projects (Title I-A; Title VI-B; Title VI-B PreSchool; Rural Education Funds; Perkins III Grant; Title II-A)

290 – Child Nutrition

300 – Debt Service (2001 & 2011 Bonds)

400 – Capital Projects (Bus Depreciation Fund; Student Occupied Bldg Maintenance Expenses)

600 – Internal Service Fund (Medical Insurance Pool)

700 – Fudiciary Funds/Trust Funds (Ramsdale Scholarship Fund & Kelly Scholarship Fund)