

Questions & Answers Community Feedback Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

Expenditures

Program Enhancements

- I'm still curious what will be spent on the Enrichment Opportunities/ W.I.N. advanced academic opportunities? Are they in a line item or will be paid for? Either way this is exciting, just curious. Regarding the Enrichment opportunities, will parents have to pay for them?
 - **Working with SCOPE, we have identified a cost of approximately \$65,000 to cover enrichment opportunities for the district. This includes – 3 six-week after school enrichment sessions, 1 time per week for 90 minutes. This will occur 3 times per year in each school and will be available to each grade. The group size is approximately 15 students, depending on those students that qualify through the identification process.**
 - **This is a district funded endeavor, at no cost to families.**

- SCOPE:
 - What is the litmus, then, for deciding which students will be eligible for the after-school SCOPE program? And for the possible school enrichment?
 - **We are working on developing a rubric with multiple criteria that will identify students who are appropriate for enrichment.**

 - How many slots would be available per grade in these programs? (This is a significant concern after adults are hearing the free tutoring program had minimal availability.)
 - **This includes – 3 six-week after school enrichment sessions, 1 time per week for 90 minutes. This will occur 3 times per year in each school and will be available to each grade. The group size is approximately 15 students, depending on those students that qualify through the identification process.**

 - Many students are committed to after-school activities, and families will need time to schedule for enrichment opportunities. When is the option for SCOPE presented to students and their families? The worry is that If this is not something offered before the school year begins, many students will not be able to participate due to schedule conflicts.
 - **We will do our best to coordinate the enrichment offerings in early Fall.**

Special Education

- Will the Behavioral Analyst also work with kids who bully others or act out / are disruptive?

- **The primary role of the behavioral analyst will be to work with our Special Education population. However, if necessary, if a behavior that is categorized as disruptive physically, verbally, or relationally surfaces, the behavioral analyst could at some point be consulted. Generally, the psychologist and administration would first work with the general education teacher and student on building awareness on how their behavior can affect others. The behavior analyst is generally an IEP, Special Education driven service. However, in cases where other interventions have not been effective, the behavior analyst could be consulted. In those cases, the creation of a plan that addresses and targets specific behaviors could be completed and implemented with parental consent. Educating parents and caregivers would always be a major part of any behavioral support or intervention.**

Mental Health

- Seeing the district emphasizing the need for mental health support is refreshing, and we know there is an intention to keep guidance counselors staffed. There are, however, an abundance of conditions that call for the involvement of a Social Worker. As our district Social Worker is retiring, has there been any consideration regarding lessening the load associated with one professional having to meet the needs of the entire district? Is it financially possible to staff one Social Worker in each school? There was chatter about replacing Go-Math Curriculum, but it doesn't appear to be not a part of the '23-'24 budget. Is this because it was already budgeted for in the previous school year, or has the district changed course under new leadership? If replacing the math curriculum is no longer a concern/priority, can district admin explain the reason for the pivot?
 - **We recognize the role of a social worker covers many different areas related to students' social/emotional health including acting as the school-community liaison and providing integral support for parents/families. With our mental health team, 4 psychologists, 2 behavior therapists, 1 school counselor, and 1 social worker, we are able to coordinate the roles and responsibilities of each of our staff thereby ensuring our social worker has time to address the needs of students and families in both buildings. As with all of our programs, we continue to evaluate on an on-going basis.**
 - **As it relates to your question regarding Go-Math, we will be exploring various options and plan to budget for a new Math curriculum for the 24-25 school year.**

Facilities & Security

- What are the HVAC and Security upgrades exactly? Will the classrooms and auditoriums finally have air conditioning?
 - **The District has budgeted for additional security cameras to mitigate potential blind-spots or vulnerable areas within each school building. To identify potential areas of concern, the District worked with the Floral Park Police Department to assess each building. We hope to maximize our spending so as to fold in security upgrades each fiscal year. As it relates to HVAC expenditures, the District has not budgeted for air conditioners in the classrooms and auditoriums as this would require substantial funding. We**

are, however, looking into this option as we plan for the eventual heating conversion project. The community will be actively involved in this venture and will have an opportunity for feedback and collaboration through our formal Strategic Planning process, which will be launched later this year.

- Security is a top concern, and we are grateful the district prioritizes staff and student safety. We understand changes are inevitable and that the opportunity for transparency is, for obvious reasons, limited. It was mentioned the district might offer a presentation for families if appropriate. Has the district considered providing a comprehensive updated guide for families on new procedures, if allowed? Piecemealing emails and keeping track of changes can be challenging; it would be nice to have a handbook where the district outlines visitor entrance policies, early pick-up rules, lost and found accessibility, etc.
 - **Each school building posts their code of conduct and emergency building/drill procedures on their web page. These resources provide relevant safety related information that is shared with families. In addition, the District has engaged with a new Security Consultant, Alteris, to develop a parent handbook and also to provide a school safety forum for families in the next school year.**

Additional Questions or Comments

- Care before school has been an issue for many families. Pre-Covid, district-wide needs were evaluated, and it seemed promising a program might be established. We know that Covid changed the school community's priorities, and working from home became a viable option for families. As more workers return to their offices, has the new administration considered re-evaluating before-school needs?
 - **Before school care was not included in the 2023-2024 proposed budget but it is something we can assess for future budgets, should the Board of Education and Central Administration determine through a data driven process that there be a need in the community.**