

FY21 BUDGET HEARING PRESENTATION QUESTIONS

Below is a composite of the questions asked of Lotis Johnson, Finance Coordinator, during and up to three days after the FY21 Budget Hearing Presentation held on June 29, 2020 at 6pm live streamed via YouTube.

Question:

Have the special projects already been explained in detail?

Response:

The special projects currently budgeted in the FY21 budget are:

- *HVAC update at QLE*
- *HVAC installed at both the gyms at QJH and QHS*
- *Digital Radios to be installed on the buses*
- *Roof repair at QHS*
- *AC installed in 5 classrooms at QUE*
- *Canopy installed at QLE*
- *Technology for Teachers and students*

With the large deficit predicted, we may not be able to move forward with these plans in FY21.

Question:

Will it be possible to not overspend when it comes to offsetting the loss coming from the usage of the PPE by the staff and children?

Response:

The amount we plan to spend on PPE would not make up for the deficit should it be removed from the budget. The deficit would just simply decrease in total.

Question:

Why has a loan recently been taken out for 16 Section land? And If not used for improvements on 16 Section land, then what was the loan for?

Response:

The loan was taken from our 16th Section Principal Fund. So we own the money already, but it can't be spent, only borrowed against. So we borrowed funds to fund the majority of the HVAC projects I spoke of last night (HVAC at QLE, QJH gym and QHS gym). So the loan is not for land improvements or development.

Question:

How do I obtain an itemized QSD budget?

Response:

Public Information Request and you'll need to specify if you want the revenue budget, expenditure budget or both. Have you ever read a total itemized school district budget before? I ask because it's full of codes that you'll need to know the meaning of to make sense and the expenditure budget will be a large document.

Question:

This is what I understand from your budget presentation. There are three things that are bothersome, though they are not necessarily the fault of our School. A.D.A. is the basis for MAEP funding and I believe somewhere you indicated our A.D.A. was 1,522 of 1740 enrolled. The loss of 12% was reflected in your M.A.E.P. numbers. We know the months they are computed, so what happened?

Response:

The ADA figure used to calculate the MAEP full funding amount for FY21 is 1521.13 and the enrollment number to compare to this ADA figure is 1656 (which is month 3 enrollment 1726 less 70 preK students that are not counted for ADA purposes). I do not have the data to answer the question as to why the attendance of our enrolled population at month 3 was at 91.85%.

Question:

The other item is the Capital Expenditures, which if put off as has been done over the last several years, will come back to bite us. Some of the critical elements in that proposal should be considered. Have no problem improving the quality of life for our students.

Response:

We will make the best decision in the interest of the children of Quitman School District and as far as our resources will allow us to.

Question:

The last item is the local funding request. The Department of Education allows a school to choose from the last three years' base contribution and adjust up to 7%. You stated that based on this formula the school was approximately under the maximum amount by \$186,000. I totally disagree with this as we are spending too

much for administration. Compare us to state averages and we stand out negatively. This should change.

Response:

You are correct in that for our Ad Valorem request to the Board of Supervisors, the statute allows for us to choose the base of any of the 3 previous years that is most advantageous for us and increase that base by up to 7%.

The second part of your statement is in reference to the part of the law used to determine the reasonableness of administrative salary expenditures. So I'm not sure I understand how you're determining that one relates to the other.

But for the record, I stated that we are under the allowable administrative salary cost by \$179,629. And I have no comment regarding your comment on the administrative salaries of the individuals that give their all to the administration and business affairs of this school district.