

I want to begin by expressing disappointment that you our valued employees are in large part caught in the middle of issues that have nothing to do with your roles and the education of children. I am ashamed and embarrassed that issues that could have been solved last spring have grown to this magnitude. I have tried to be mature and not talk about the issues publicly so that I would not add to the dissention in the district. I am anxious for the other sides of these issues to become transparent.

The height of this embarrassment for me occurred when three members of our Board did not show up for Monday night's (Aug. 18) Regular Meeting of the Broken Arrow Board of Education. One of the key items on the agenda that could not be addressed (because of a lack of quorum) was negotiations, impasse, and teachers pay raises. How is not having a meeting beneficial to this process? I believe these three items are three of the eight items they claimed the Board President and I would not add to the agenda.

Negotiations, impasse, and teachers pay raises were on the agenda as part of executive session for a board meeting that three members chose not to attend.

They have hired new counsel at taxpayer expense to help them re-write various board policies even though they don't follow the current policies, and it should be pointed out that many of the district's current policies were written by the new counsel (Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold) when that firm was the district's old counsel prior to 2005 (including Board Policy 15.1). In 2000, Broken Arrow Public Schools paid Rosenstein, Fist and Ringold \$104, 861 dollars. That was the first year that I worked for the district. This past year, our legal fees with the Center for Education Law were \$8,501.18.1 stopped using Doug Mann and that firm because the district was not getting the service we needed and the cost was too high.

One of the issues that the three board members, who purposefully missed a regularly scheduled Board Meeting, continue to point to and intimate about is the district's fund balance or carryover.

Here are the facts: On April 25, 2008 (see below email), our district's then Chief Financial Officer Trish Williams, who is now CFO for Tulsa Public Schools, reported that our Fund Balance from 2007-2008 going into the 2008-2009 school year would be 7.2% or \$6,624,654.93.

Sisney, Jim

From: Williams, Irish

Sent: Friday, April 25, 2008 11 :08 AM

To: Martin, Brenda

Cc: Sisney, Jim; Piested, Joy C

Subject: RE: Fund Balance

Brenda - See below for fund balance projections for the General, Building, and Child Nutrition funds as of 6.30.2008. This assumes that state aid will be paid in full by the end of the year.

Beginning Fund Balance 7/1/07 Plus: Projected Revenue

6/30

Less: Projected Encumbrances as of 6/30 Less: Transfer to Arbitrage Fund 2.2008

Plus: 06-07 Lapsed Appropriations Estimated Fund Balance 6/30/08

Increase/(Decrease)

General Fund Building Fund Child Nutritio

7,984,000.70 785,060.21 1,308,354.36

91,439,092.07 (592,600,000.00) (8211,468.01) 2,669,401.00 {82,700,000,00) SO.OO 6,90' (86,730,000.

SO.OO

13,030.17 134,236.76 115,337.06

6,624,654,93 888,697.97 1.601,595.44

(1,359,345.77)

7.2%

## 6/30/08 Fund Balance as % of Projected Revenue

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Those are the numbers that reflected in our budget discussions and planning for the new fiscal year. The 2007-2008 fund balance provided by our new CFO Ann Wade and confirmed by our district auditor is \$5,925,936.29 which represents a decrease of \$2,058,064.41 from 2006-2007. Our Fund Balance is not 7.2% for the 2008-2009 school year as reported in the above email but instead is 6.48% a difference of \$698,718.64. Unfortunately, that difference has vast implications on the current salary negotiations because another board policy is that the fund balance not drop below 5%. The Board of Education was notified last April that I had concerns about the fund balance percentage.

Board Policy 15.1 which governs how items are placed on the agenda was first adopted in 1984 and last edited under Rosenstein's legal eye by this school district in 1998 and has been followed by the school district and school board with no previous board member issues that I am aware of including during the three Board of Education presidencies of Mrs. Whelpley and two Board of Education presidencies of Mrs. Flipppo. Board agendas are set on the Monday before a board meeting with the ESC staff. The items that are placed on the agenda come from their offices and reflect the issues going on at your buildings and the district. Very few items have ever been placed on a board agenda by the superintendent since I have been in Broken Arrow. And, this is true in all school districts.

I know that some of you think I am great and some of you think I am terrible. That is the nature of being Superintendent of a school district the size of Broken Arrow Public Schools, and I accept that. I also join you in accepting the responsibility of educating 16,000 students on a daily basis. Educating those students must be our focus no matter what political upheaval is being created by those who have somehow forgotten what our focus must be.

I am stunned that three elected officials would not follow through on their promises to the voters of this district to carry out the business of this school district by participating in the very office they were elected to-Board of Education member.

Again, I am sorry to you who do your jobs so well are to a certain extent caught up in this matter either indirectly as you attempt to answer co-workers' and parents' questions or directly as you wonder about negotiations and pay raises. Unless you have been a teacher or a site administrator, no one knows how much conversation goes on in the lounge and in the hallways and how destructive it is to have to figure out what is going on behind closed doors. With this "junk" going on, it is difficult to focus on education issues. To that point, look for facts to be unfolded over time that will shed significant light on the real issues. I don't believe the three board members who purposefully did not attend a regularly scheduled Board Meeting, intended for their behavior to cause these issues of concern, and I know that I am certainly losing sleep as I try to deal with their issues with me and the district while doing my best to keep our employees out of harm's way in an effort to effectively meet the needs and expectations of our students and staff.

If you have any questions about these issues, please contact me. Thank you for your great work for this school district. Sincerely, Jim