



Ashland Independent School District

"Whatever It Takes"

To: The Chair of the KBE

From: D. Sean Howard, Superintendent *Howard*

Ashland Independent Schools

Ref: Summary of action

Date: March 29, 2021

Our district continues spending at a slower pace when comparing FY 2021 to FY 2020. Through February expenditures being booked to the general fund are \$1.7 million less than the prior year. Work continues to ensure all expenditures are being coded to the proper fund. Old state and federal grants in the Special Revenue funds have been closed and zeroed out.

Items and journal entries needed by the auditor have been provided with the exception of the Fixed Asset reports and that will be occurring this week. The audit nears completion with an anticipated audit report date of 4-15-21.

The District recently accepted the resignation of the Finance Officer/Treasurer position. A new finance/officer has been hired and transitioning into the new role.

Work has begun on utilizing the ESSER 2 funds to sure up general fund for FY 2020 and FY 2021. The District is already planning on adjustments to staffing levels for FY 22 and a summary of that follows.

Staffing Reductions

The Ashland Independent Schools recently provided school councils, and their principals, with staffing allocations for the 2021-2022 school year. The district relied stringently on board-approved staffing formulas related to projected school enrollments to determine these allocations. This resulted in a decrease of fifteen (15) certified positions to be paid from the general fund. In addition, the district will be reducing some itinerant positions which will result in a decrease of three (3) more certified positions, for a total decrease of eighteen (18) certified positions. With an average salary for certified, instructional personnel of \$50,374.00, this could reduce the burden on the general fund by as much as \$906,732.00.

Also, the district has revised its formula for allocating instructional assistants for the schools. This will result in a decrease of 17 classified positions for next fiscal year. With an average salary for this job classification of \$12,117.00, the additional savings to the general fund could amount to as much as \$205,989.00.

It is hoped that these reductions in staffing and related savings, a potential total of \$1,112,721.00, will enable the district to reach a more stable financial standing in the short and long term.