

Dear ANCS Community Members,

At last night's meeting of the ANCS Governing Board, we presented the draft of the FY16 ANCS operating budget. A final draft of the budget will be voted on by the board at its May 19 meeting. This letter includes a summary of key aspects of the budget draft.

We are pleased to report that with local and state funding increasing, the draft budget reflects commitments made at the start of the "Great Recession" to lower class sizes and strengthen Spanish staffing once we began to climb out of the funding hole brought on by steep declines in tax revenue. With a roughly 7% projected increase in local/state funding from FY15 to FY16, we are planning on beginning a multi-year plan towards lowering class sizes in line with a [presentation made at the March board meeting](#) and also adding another Spanish teacher to the middle school campus in line with the [vision for foreign language programming presented at the October 2014 board meeting](#).

Outside of the adjustments to our revenue forecast based on a slightly lower student count and the expected increase from our proportional share of local/state funding, we will lose about \$30,000 of federal funding from our middle school campus no longer qualifying for the [Title I program](#), while we will gain back approximately \$75,000 of ANCS operating expenses now covered by a federal grant for our [CREATE teacher residency program](#).

In terms of expenses, along with the additional Spanish teacher at the middle school campus, we will be adding an instructional coach to support teachers in grades K-3 as a complement to the instructional coach already in place in grades 4-8. As well, the draft budget includes staffing increases in for school nurse, technology, and English as a second language to insure the well-being of students, enhance teaching and learning, and remain in program compliance. The final major expense item the board will consider in the budget is a potential cost-of-living salary increase for teachers and staff.

[An overview of these budget assumptions is posted along with the complete draft budget under the April board reports on our website](#). The next meeting of the board's finance and operations committee to review the final draft of the budget will be held at the elementary campus on Thursday, May 14 from 2:30-4:00 PM, and the FY16 budget will then be voted on at the May board meeting. We are grateful for the time put in by many people to develop this draft budget, one that will improve the experience for students and teachers at ANCS.

If you have any questions about the draft budget, please feel free to contact either one of us.

Sincerely,

Matt Underwood
Executive Director

Mitch White
Chair - ANCS Board Finance & Operations Committee