Community Finance Committee

Update to the Board of Education July 14, 2008

Agenda

- Community Finance Committee
- Financial Structure Subcommittee
- Spend Management Subcommittee
- Legislative Subcommittee
- Communications Subcommittee

Community Finance Committee Mission

Role

- · Conduct analyses and provide assistance on education finance issues
 - Independent financial analyses and review
 - > Financial structure improvement and opportunities
 - > Spend management analysis and practices
 - > Legislative developments analysis
 - > Community communications
 - Other topics as directed by the Board
- · Build community consensus
- Provide forum for community input
- Take multi-year time perspective
 - Current concerns
 - Look "over the horizon"

2

CFC Operating Principles

- Four subcommittees
 - Comprised of community members
 - Each has expectations, assignments, and work plans
- Steering committee
 - Superintendent
 - Business Manager
 - Public Information Coordinator
 - Three Board liaisons
 - Subcommittee chairs
 - Other administrators as needed
- Meeting schedule
 - Entire CFC
 - Subcommittees
 - Steering committee
- · All meetings open to the public with minutes posted on website

Agenda

- Community Finance Committee
- Financial Structure Subcommittee
- Spend Management Subcommittee
- Legislative Subcommittee
- Communications Subcommittee

4

Financial Structure Subcommittee

Board Expectations and Assignments

- Post-referendum accountability metrics (in conjunction with Communications)
 - Evaluate the BOE's Referendum cash flow assumptions vs. today (develop a "Metrics Scorecard")
- Cash flow forecasting
 - Fund Balance Forecast changes vs. the BOE 1-22-07 "Planning Scenario" used for the Referendum
- Review of revenue generation ideas (summer 2006 <u>Brainstorming Ideas</u>) and prioritize high-potential ideas

CFC Additional Task, Self-assigned

- We saw a connection between the District's budget process and the BOE fund balance policy and fund balance forecast assumptions:
 - 1. What are causes of Actual-to-Budget variances (thus unexpected changes to Fund Balances) that can be internally managed?
 - 2. When setting a new Budget, are new cost drivers (e.g. new programs, FTEs) quantified? How do they affect the forecasting assumptions regarding Salary, Benefits, Supplies, Purchased Services, Special Education?
- So we added an assignment: Study the annual <u>Budget Development</u> <u>process</u>:
 - Understand the bottom-up collection of data
 - Understand the estimation and contingencies process
 - Understand how new programs, mandates, projects, and FTEs are broken out

6

Financial Structure Subcommittee

Subcommittee Members

- Kent Bergren (split w/the Spend Subcommittee)
- Jim Bucaro
- Mike Calahan
- Phil Eichman
- Ken Fink (thru 5/08)
- · Vicki Mogil
- Paul Sheehan

Activities to Date

Fund Balance Forecast

- Updated the November, 2006 CFC model with 2006-07 Actuals and 2007-08 Budget
- Used the 1-22-07 BOE "Planning Scenario" to create a Baseline vs. April, '08
- Post-referendum Metrics: developed a suggested "Scorecard"

Brainstorming Ideas

- Combined the June, 2006 citizen Ideas with 2008 CFC additions
- Did further voting and ranking
 - -- Rank each Idea for "Impact", "Practicality", and overall "Preference"
- Selected Subcommittee preferences

Budget Development Process

 Conducted four information-gathering interviews: Purchasing, Bldg/Grounds, Bus. Mgr, and one Principal (Vicki Mogil, Emerson)

8

Financial Structure Subcommittee:

Update: Fund Balance Forecast

- Intent is to provide an external perspective about Operating Fund Balance forecasts over ten+ year period
 - Top-down view
 - Not a replacement for Administration's bottom-up budgeting
- The BOE's Committee of the Whole-Finance, June 30, 2008 looked at Fund Balance "Baseline" vs. Current
 - "Baseline" = <u>BOE's "Planning Scenario</u>" of 1-22-07 for 44 cent increase (the Referendum vote)
- A first cut CFC analysis suggests general agreement on the Ten Year Baseline to current Fund Balance projection

Update: Fund Balance Forecast

Assumptions & Metrics

Salaries 4.5%
 Benefits 12.0 %

Transportation Costs
 O&M Capital Spending
 700K 2006-07, \$650K/yr thereafter

5. Purchased Services 3%

6. Curriculum Same as 2006-077. Adm:Pupil ratio Same as 2006-07

8. Technology 3%

9. Debt No new debt (just pay off existing WC & Emerson bonds)

10. Construction No new construction or re-modeling
11. Class Size Guidelines Lowered for K (-2), 3-4 (-1), 5-8 (-1)

10

Financial Structure Subcommittee

Update: Fund Balance Forecast

Assumptions & Metrics

Level of BOE control: MODERATE ASSUMPTIONS (BOE 1/2007, Plan. Scenario)

12. Special Educ. Costs 10% for Tuition paid by D64, 3.5% for Supplies

13. Property Tax Refunds Remain at the same \$ level as 2006-07

4. Supplies 3%

15. All Other Costs 3%

15. Legal Judgments, Insurance Continue at current levels, with adequate

Claims insurance coverage

16. Facilities Use and Size Adequate "as is" for enrollment & needs

Update: Fund Balance Forecast

Assumptions & Metrics

Level of BOE control: LOW ASSUMPTIONS (starting 2007-08)

17. Enrollment Flat to slightly falling (Demographer Report,

middle scenario)

18. TIF Revenue As projected by the City (FY 09 projected start)

excluding new student payments

19. Inflation 3% (CPI used for 2006 Levy = 3.4%)

20. New Property Rolling 5 year average

21. EAV growth Grow at 75% of the prior 3 years rate (rolling

average)

22. Investment Returns 3%23. Collection Rate on Taxes 98.5%

12

Financial Structure Subcommittee

Update: Fund Balance Forecast

The Subcommittee identified several assumptions that seem likely to change and could result in a different Fund Balance forecast

ASSUMPTIONS: Subcommittee Questions

1. EAV Growth/ New Property For Next Triennial, will EAV and New Property

be less? If so, both higher tax rate and less D64

revenue.

2. **Inflation** Currently a 3%/yr Assumption. Will inflation

[for education, not just CPI-Urban] go higher? Will energy costs push overall costs above 3%? Offsetting this, Tax Cap revenue will increase

but only up to 5%.

3. **Technology** Currently a 3%/yr growth Assumption. Will

actual growth be higher over the next three

years?

4. Curriculum Assumed to remain as in 2006-07. Is this

realistic? It could under predicts future costs, thus overstating the FB. Is this a minor or major error? Approximating 1-3 yr curricula growth

outlook could help.

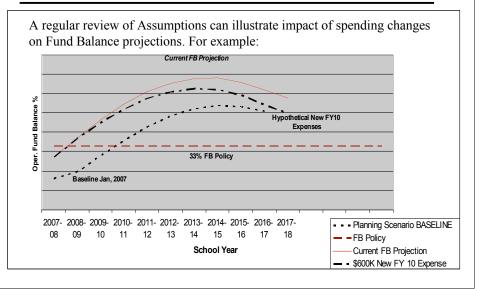
Update: Fund Balance Forecast

- The Subcommittee is concerned about potential political changes:
 - Will the long-debated system of local property tax change?
 - Will federal or state assistance fall or rise under new administrations?
 - Will mandates increase or fall?
- The Subcommittee's view is that there is MORE RISK inherent in the Fund Balance model projections than can be fully described in the Assumptions
 - Not all risks can be modeled, but we feel that the Assumptions are not the full story
- Thus, the Spend Management & Legislative Subcommittees should be asked for qualitative and quantitative input to any Projection updates

14

Financial Structure Subcommittee

Update: Fund Balance Forecast



Update: Brainstorming Ideas

CFC Work to Date:

- Small working groups identified potential improvement opportunities for the District in June 2006
- 2. Citizen group voted on the list to identify best improvement opportunities
- Updated vote on the same list by members of all three components of the Community Finance Committee in May, 2008
- 4. Filtered to identify "Top Fifteen" Ideas (Idea impact, practicality, preference)
- 5. Subcommittee identified six near term recommendations
- 6. D64 Administration to internally review Subcommittee findings

16

Financial Structure Subcommittee

Update: Budget Development Process

Completed Tasks and BOE Question:

- Subcommittee meeting with Business Mgr to understand the annual Budget Kickoff process
 - Reviewed the worksheets templates that go out to Dept. Heads, Adm, Principals, and others D64 staff.
- P. Eichman interviews (ASNs, estimation & contingency methods) with:
 - Purchasing (Betty L.)
 - Bldg & Grounds (Jim W.)
 - One Principal (Vicki M.)
- **BOE Question**: Have past Actual-to-Budget variances been large enough to warrant further work in this area, or are current methods sufficient?
 - Is the June 30 COW exhibit on Budget detail a sufficient first step?

Suggested Priorities for FY2009

A. Managing Cash Flow Projections

- Document all BOE-directed changes and incorporate into Baseline Assumptions
- 2. Develop a "Financial Metrics" Scorecard, based on the variables
- 3. Using 2006-07 as the Base Referendum year, update and analyze Fund Balance Projections:
 - March -- FB and Assumption reviews to help guide the upcoming year's budget process
 - October/Nov -- post-audit, as part of budget variance analysis.
 Look back at budget assumptions, current economic trends, Tax Levy

B. Select Brainstorming Ideas to research

- D64 Adm review, then CFC presents to BOE for selection
- Recruit citizen volunteers & D64 staff

Financial Structure Subcommittee

Suggested Priorities for FY2009

C. Budget Development Process?

- BOE interest in D64's estimating methods and contingencies?
- BOE interest in breaking out <u>new</u> Program and FTEs vs. prior budget year?

D. From the June 30th Committee-of-the-Whole

- Is there BOE interest in new Budget reports or graphical measures?
- Can CFC play a useful role in piloting new Reports with the Business Office?
- General question: BOE areas of interest for "process improvement" work?

Agenda

- Community Finance Committee
- · Financial Structure Subcommittee
- Spend Management Subcommittee
- Legislative Subcommittee
- Communications Subcommittee

20

Spend Management Subcommittee

Board Expectations and Assignments

- Update Expense Analyses
 - Categorize and analyze 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years
 - Create trending and program analyses
 - Identify areas of opportunity
- Create 3-year Sourcing Plan
 - Recommend services and goods for competitive bid
 - Review current services out to bid if applicable, i.e., copiers
 - Recommend templates to be used
- Other Areas to Explore
 - Expense reduction ideas from brainstorming sessions
 - Purchasing Card
 - Supplier performance metrics
 - Analysis of fee-offset programs

Spend Management Subcommittee

Subcommittee Members

- · Kent Bergren
- Andy Duerkop
- Dave Govertson
- Fred Kahn
- Jun Lim
- Diana Stapleton

22

Spend Management Subcommittee

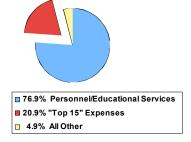
Activities to Date

- Update Expense Analysis
 - Built expense analysis tool in Excel containing basic trending and analysis capabilities
 - Loaded three years of expense data (2004/05, 05/06, and 06/07)
 - Categorized data by year, vendor, account, expense type, and vendor
 - Performed "reasonableness" validation of categories
 - Identified "Top 15" expense categories with spending in excess of \$100K annual average
 - > Rank-ordered by Subcommittee members
 - > Selected specific areas to recommend for further investigation during upcoming year
- Create 3-year Sourcing Plan
 - Recommended services and goods for competitive bid
 - Reviewed current services out to bid if applicable, i.e., copiers
 - Reviewed current bid contracts
- Other Areas to Explore
 - Have "adopted" several expense reduction ideas from brainstorming sessions
 - Educated Sub-Committee members about how expenses are incurred in preparation for future analysis of fees and supplies expenses

Spend Management Subcommittee

Update on Expense Analysis

- Analyzed 3 most recent years of expenses (2004/5, 2005/6, 2006/7)
- Grouped similar expense transactions into broad categories across all departments
- Reviewed categorization for reasonableness and accuracy
- 76.9% of expenses are related to Educational Services/Personnel and were not analyzed further



• Fifteen categories account for 81% of the remaining expenses. Each of these "Top 15" average over \$100K annual spending, and in total account for over \$5M annually.

24

Spend Management Subcommittee

Update on Expense Analysis

"Top 15" Review

- Prioritized and grouped related expenses as a basis for a "deeper dive" review
 - Three year sourcing/RFP process (partially worked this year)
 - > Transportation
 - > Food Services
 - > Copiers/Printers/Fax
 - > Legal & Audit
 - > Telecom
 - > Computers & Software
 - Energy review efforts (to be worked)
 - > Natural Gas
 - > Electricity
 - Student fee analysis (to be worked)
 - > Textbooks
 - > Supplies
- Remaining expense categories, while important, were prioritized lower and are not planned for further review

 Legend:

"Top 15" Expenses	
Category	Annual Average Spend
Transportation	\$1,480,656
Supplies	\$896,551
Food Services	\$461,271
Natural Gas	\$415,200
Electricity	\$412,066
Sound Abatement	\$327,602
Copiers/Printers/Fax	\$298,385
Computers	\$267,871
Textbooks	\$223,959
Roof	\$204,169
Legal	\$157,493
Building Improvements	\$127,866
Telecom	\$108,616
Software	\$106,166
HVAC	\$101,377
Total	\$5,589,249

Legend: Fee-Related RFP Process Energy-Related

Spend Management Subcommittee

Update on Three-Year Sourcing

- "Sourcing" refers to a procurement process that continuously reevaluates and improves the purchasing activities of an organization
 - The aim is to achieve better performance for equivalent costs or similar performance for lower costs
- Worked with Administration to understand current sourcing plans and processes for the following expense categories:
 - Audit
 - Legal
 - Copier
 - Transportation
- Provided analysis of historical data for these expenses based on three year history
- This information was available to support Administration decisions on issuing RFPs and in evaluating RFP responses

26

Spend Management Subcommittee

Suggested Priorities for FY2009

- Continue working with Administration on 3-year sourcing
 - Identify "lessons learned" from this year's RFP activities
 - Assist with identifying improvements to the current RFP process
- Using the 3-year expense analysis data, support upcoming analysis of student fees
 - Provide finer breakdown of Supplies expense
 - Validate and refine Textbook expense category
 - Meet with Administration to better understand
 - Textbook acquisition
 - > Supplies acquisition
 - > Processes used to set student fees
 - Assist with identification of expenses related to student fees
- Investigate ways to enhance existing **energy** expense reduction efforts
 - Get educated on progress to date
 - Provide energy expense historical analysis to assist Administration as needed

Agenda

- Community Finance Committee
- Financial Structure Subcommittee
- Spend Management Subcommittee
- Legislative Subcommittee
- · Communications Subcommittee

28

Legislative Subcommittee

Board Expectations and Assignments

- To identify and monitor all legislation that may have financial impact on the District
- In cooperation with the other Community Finance Committee subcommittees, research the financial impact of pending legislation on the District
- Build positive two-way relationships with local legislators
- Attempt to build a pro active method of communicating with Board members, administrators, staff and the community about legislative issues that may have a financial impact on the District
- Recommend positions on key legislation to the Board

Legislative Subcommittee

Subcommittee Members

- LeAnne Berry
- Michael Ferraro
- Eileen Kelliher
- · Sharon Lawson
- Laura McGrady
- Ton Nasshan
- Ted Smart
- John Waters

30

Legislative Subcommittee

Activities to Date

- Met with State Senator Dan Kotowski and State Representative Rosemary Mulligan
- Met with staff to discuss current legislative issues
- · Attended EDRED Constitutional Convention Seminar
- Traveled to Springfield to meet with local legislators
- Have started outreach to other districts with active legislative committees
- Have begun research into legislative matters that may impact the District
- Currently attempting to schedule additional meetings with other parties that may be able to assist us in achieving our goals
- Communicated with other subcommittees about issues that they are working on

Legislative Subcommittee

Updates

- Reported the District's aims and goals to local legislators and enlisted their help in learning how to stay informed about current legislative initiatives that may impact the district
- Mr. Wuerffel sends Alliance reports to two committee members on a regular basis
- Met with Senator Kotowski in Springfield to discuss budget issues related to education funding and the various proposals to change how education is funded in the state
- Working to establish relationships with other districts that have legislative committees
- Through reading of numerous different publications, both paper and web based, the committee members are familiarizing themselves with issues that may have a financial impact on the district in the future
- The committee is discussing meetings with EDRED, Fed Ed, and Senator Sullivan
- Committee chair has participated in the steering committee meetings and obtained links to useful websites, publications, etc.

30

Legislative Subcommittee

Suggested Priorities for FY2009

- Continue to become familiar with legislative issues that may affect the District
 - 1. Alliance Reports
 - Newsletters from IEA, NEA, EDRED, FEDED, and any other sources that we or other CFC members discover
 - Ongoing discussions with various lobby groups that monitor legislation affecting school districts
 - 4. Ongoing discussions with local legislators
- Work with local legislators to schedule an education funding hearing to take place at a District 64 facility in the near future
- Meet with District legal counsel to assess ways to provide and receive timely communication with board members about pressing legislative matters
- As directed by the Board, attempt to find a "trial balloon" issue to get the community to contact legislators about pending legislation that affects the District

Agenda

- Community Finance Committee
- · Financial Structure Subcommittee
- · Spend Management Subcommittee
- Legislative Subcommittee
- Communications Subcommittee

34

Communications Subcommittee

Board Expectations and Assignments

- · Draft additional chapters for Education Finance Fact Book
- Draft post-referendum metrics "scorecard" (with Financial Structure subcommittee)
- Develop one or two themes to build greater awareness (e.g., Educational Ends)
- Explore new ways to expand reach of "State of the District"
- Assist in building awareness for Strategic Planning effort

Subcommittee Members

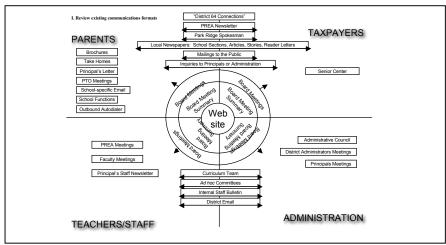
- Olympia Asimacopoulos
- Craig Elderkin
- Lynne Farmer
- Bill Gorman
- · Craig Harter
- Jerry Kenny
- Steve Latreille
- Renata Stolzer
- · Linda Williger

36

Communications Subcommittee

Historical Refresher

In 2005, the Board endorsed a communications program anchored by the District's website



Historical Refresher

A three-year review identified community interest in understanding a consistent set of education finance themes



Community education finance themes, based on published community comments:

- 1. How well children are learning given the resources provided by taxpayers.
- 2. How effectively the Board has managed taxpayer-provided resources.
- 3. How parents, teachers, and administrators contribute to revenue enhancement and expense control.
- 4. How the District works to deliver and advance mandated and "non-core academic" programs.
- 5. How the District addresses financial challenges.
- 6. How effectively the Board communicates with the community.

Communications Subcommittee

Historical Refresher

In 2006, the Board agreed that the Education Finance Communications Program should have three significant dimensions

1. District 64 Education Finance Fact Book

- Fact-based responses to community issues and concerns
- Policy/direction statements
- Single set of data available to all constituencies
- Reactive to community questions

2. Education Finance Theme Spotlight Series

- Based on both dollar and education quality impact of interest to target audiences and key subsegments, e.g.
 - Special education, gifted education, Illinois state financing, county property tax processes, teachers' advanced education and training
- Proactive reaches out to community

3. Organized Solicitation and Processing of Community Feedback and Input

- Internet
- Paper-based
- Proactive seeks ideas and suggestions from all constituencies

(In the present time) Activities to Date

- · Conducted Internet research to get background and data
- Met with staff and Board members to understand District perspective
- Submitted drafts for three new chapters
- Submitted updates for three existing chapters
- Internal drafts completed for four chapters
- Drafts underway for two chapters
- Outlines completed for two chapters
- Two more chapters waiting to start

40

Communications Subcommittee

Project Update Summary

	Project Status	
Education Finance Fact Book Chapters		
Investments and Rates of Return Chapter	Interviews complete, drafting outline	
2. Facilities Chapter	Outline complete	
3. Curriculum Review Budget Implications Chapter	Drafting in process	
State Funding Cha pter	Outline complete	
5. Comparative School Districts Demographics Chapter	Complete draft	
Parent Contributions II Chapter	Complete draft	
7. Lottery Funding Chapter	Draft submitted	
8. Frequently Asked Questions Web Site Section	Draft submitted	
Update Selected Existing Fact Book Chapters	Draft submitted	
Post -referendum "scorecard"		
10. Post -Referendum Scorecard	Will proceed once recommendations finalized	
Develop One or Two Themes for Fact Book		
11. Financial Aspects of Special Education Chapter	Some interviews , outline drafted	
12. Financial Implications of Educational Ends Chapter/Student Performance Compared to Resources Committed by Taxpayers	Some interviews, outline in process	
Explore New Ways to Expand Reach of "State of the District"	Discussing ideas	
Assis t in Strategic Planning Effort	TBD	

Fact Book Chapters in Process

	Rationale	Est. Staff Time Requirements
Investments and	The District will have a large operating fund cash balance	Bruce Martin: 2 hours
Rates of Return	which can be used to generate interest income. Some	
Chapter	municipal and investment funds have been in the news	Review and Edit
	because of losses due to inappropriate investments. Is the current arrangement with the Maine Township School	
	Treasurer adequate in terms of returns and risk management?	
Facilities Chapter	The District spends about \$5 million on oper ations and	Jim Wuerf fel: 1 -2
•	maintenance expenses and is responsible for about \$35	One or two principals: 1
	million of physical assets. What does the District do to	each
	maintain a safe environment conducive to learning? What	Bruce Martin: 1
	are the major activities involved? Who does them and at	
	what costs?	Review and Edit
Curriculum Review	Curriculum review cycles absorb time from staff and	Diane Betts: 1
Budget Implications	require incremental spending for books and supplie s. What	One or two curriculum
Chapter	is the objective of curriculum review process and how	specialists: 1 each
	does it work? What are the direct costs and all -in costs?	Bruce Martin: 1
		Review and Edit
State Funding	State grants and aid account for about \$3.5 million in	Bruce Martin: 1 -2
Chapter	District revenue. How are state funds allocated to the	Rep from Virchow
	District? Where do the monies come from? How does the	Krause (auditor): 1
	process work? What are the risks of State financial	
	difficulties? What could be the impact on District	Review and Edit
	Finances?	

42

Communications Subcommittee

Critical Themes with Financial Implications

	Rationale	Est. Staff Time Requirements	Considerations
Financial Aspects of Special Education Chapter	Gross expenses, before reimbu rsements, for Special Education are about \$9 million, or almost one -fifth of the budget What is the Special Education pro gram and what is it trying to accomplish? How many students are served? How does it work? What are the major cost categories? What can cause spending variations over time?	Kathleen Nelson: 2 Bruce Martin: 1 Review and Edit	While e motional and sensitive, it is important to get factual aspects of the program positively communicated No reason to believe that expectations and spending won't continue to increase, so i makes sense to begin to educate the community about this critical activity A key considerati on isto structure the chapter to respect all privacy considerations

Critical Themes with Financial Implications

	Rationale	Est. Staff Time Requirements	Considerations
Financial Implications of Educational Ends Chapter/Student Performance Compared to Resources Committed by Taxpayers Chapter	The community wants to know "what it is getting for its money" in terms of student performance and attainment. A key element could be the Education Ends initiative, an effort to measure student performance against a standard/target that speaks to the "whole child." Preparation for initiative has been underway for several year. I How much has been spent in direct and indirect costs? How much will it cost to operate? What does the program intend to achieve?	Diane Betts: 2 -4 Larry Sorenson: 1 -2 Sally Pryor: 2 -3 Bruce Martin: 1 Review and Edit	The Board has rejected the idea of expressing student attainment solely in terms of standardized test scores and a expecting the Educational Ends scorecard to provide this assessment After several years of preparation, the Educational Ends initiative is at an early stage of deployment, but implementation is just beginning This project needs to respect the emerging aspects of the initiative while explaining what has been sport to date and why The objective is to setthe stage for expectations and progress reports The District cannot avoid the "bung for the buck" question and should get in front of the issue

44

Communications Subcommittee

Submitted and Completed Drafts

Submitted or Completed Drafts

	Rationale
Comparative School Districts	How does District 64's community compare to peer districts in terms
Demographics Chapter	of property tax base, population characteristics, and student population?
Parent Contributio ns II Chapter	Why shouldn't parents pay more for their children's education? In
(beyond the Student Fee chapter)	fact, PTOs, boosters, and ELF raise and disburse funds for important initiatives and activities that supplement District resources.
Lottery F unding Chapter	How much funding is provided to the District from the lottery?
Frequently Asked Questions Web	During the Referendum, several basic questions about District 64's
Site Section	education finance situation were repeatedly asked. The answers to these questions, as well as a brief "fact sheet" about the District, will be on the web site.
Update Selected Existing Fact Book	Existing chapters are two years out of date, so the figures need to be
Chapters:	updated. In addition, some additional clarifying text will help the
Property Tax Levy Process	explanation s.
Operating Fund Balance Policy	CAPARIZATOR S.
ISRE Profile	

Suggested Priorities for FY2009

- Complete Fact Book chapter drafts
 - 1. Investments and Rates of Return
 - 2. Facilities Management and Capital Spending
 - 3. Overview of State Funding
 - 4. Curriculum Review Budget Implications
- Complete "Themed" Fact Book chapter draft
 - 1. Financial Aspects of Special Education
 - 2. Financial Implications of Educational Ends/Student Performance Compared to Resources Committed by Taxpayers
- Draft post-referendum "scorecard" for web publication
- Participate in strategic planning effort as requested