

Board approves budget reductions

A response to declining enrollment and flat funding from the state prompted the Centennial School Board to approve nearly \$2.5 million in General Fund reductions.

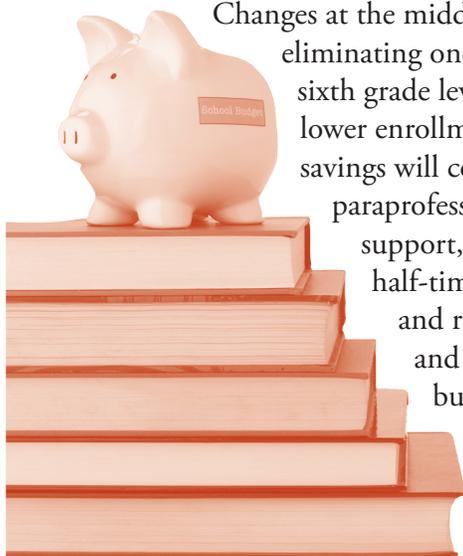
The reductions, aimed at making the district more efficient, mark the second year in a row that cutbacks have been needed. This trend is likely to continue for the next several years.

Four assumptions set the parameters for the reductions including maintaining class size ratios, flat funding from the state, declining enrollment (130 students), and loss of federal stimulus funding.

District-wide changes total over \$1 million and include teacher and support staff reductions in special education, aligning staff to match enrollment declines, and fluctuations in case load. Additional changes include the loss of one teacher on special assignment working on curriculum in Teaching and Learning, consolidation of bus routes, and reductions in custodial hours, supplies, reemployment insurance, technology replacement and transportation consulting fees. A portion of the district Fund Balance will be used to balance the budget.

At the elementary level, nearly \$450,000 in reductions come from trimming specialist teacher time to fit staffing needs, and making similar adjustments in Gifted Education and English as a Second Language. The Chinese teaching position has been eliminated, partially due to a reduction in grant dollars used to fund this opportunity. A new cybrarian position combines technology and media literacy responsibilities, allowing cutbacks in these two areas.

Changes at the middle school include eliminating one teacher team at the sixth grade level due to incoming lower enrollment. Additional savings will come from reducing paraprofessional classroom support, eliminating the half-time health clinician, and reducing the supplies and staff development budgets. Activity fees will increase \$5 per activity and \$5 for Cougar Club.



The new schedule at the high school (from a 4 x 4 block to a 6 x 2) will accommodate over \$500,000 in savings with the reduction of up to 10 teachers determined by student registration. Additional savings come from reductions in the staff development budget. Finally, activity fees will increase 50 cents per week per activity (a 10-week activity will cost an additional \$5) and \$5 per performance (fall musical, for example).

Three studies set for the upcoming school year will provide direction for the district:

A Facilities Study will review the desired district instructional delivery needs and determine the facility space necessary to accomplish these tasks. The review by an outside consultant will include a study of owned and leased spaces, enrollment projections to ascertain future needs, and demographics to determine the capacity of each facility in meeting overall district space needs.

Gifted Services Study—The Department of Teaching and Learning will work with an outside consultant to study the effectiveness of a leveled approach model and what, if any, changes may be needed to sustain delivery of gifted services. In particular, the district wants to ensure that the model continues to meet student and family needs despite staffing and schedule changes necessitated by budget reductions.

Technology Study—Centennial plans to increase the integration of technology into classroom instruction. A technology study in 2011–12 will identify technology skills to be imbedded at each grade level. A committee will examine current classroom practices and the practices of other districts, along with results of a recent technology survey conducted by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). This study will complement development of a three-year technology plan that must be submitted to MDE in the fall of 2012.

Centennial named AP Achievement District

Centennial School District was named a 2010–11 AP (Advanced Placement) Achievement District. One of 388 school districts in the nation, Centennial was recognized by the College Board with a place on its AP Achievement List for opening AP classroom doors to a significantly broader pool of students, while maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher.

Upcoming events

Truck Day and Basket Sale

Trucks, trucks everywhere! See what they look like up close, climb in, touch them, and see what they do.

Free.

10 a.m.–noon, Saturday, May 7
Rice Lake Elementary

The ECFE Advisory Council is selling baskets for summer fun, Mother's Day, Father's Day and birthdays, filled with fun things to do—come early for the best selection.

Centennial High School presents...



...a hilarious comic fable by Neil Simon

Leon Tolchinsky is ecstatic. He's landed a teaching job in a Russian hamlet. When he arrives he finds people incurably stupid. They sweep dust from the stoops back into their houses and milk upside down to get more cream. The town has been cursed with chronic stupidity for 200 years. Leon's task—break the curse. No one tells him that if he stays over 24 hours and fails to break the curse, he too becomes stupid. But, he has fallen in love with a girl so stupid that she has only recently learned how to sit down.

Wednesday, May 4, senior preview, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 5, 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 7, 7:30 p.m.

Centennial Performing Arts Center

Directed by Mark Quinlan

Tickets: \$6 adults, \$4 students (available at high school cashier's office and at the door)



Spring concert

7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 13

Performing Arts Center

War and peace theme

Donations accepted

Tech Trek Treasure Hunt set

Rice Lake Elementary is hosting a community-wide family event called Tech Trek Treasure Hunt from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, May 7. Armed with a map and clues, families will trek through the school's certified wildlife habitat; learn about and use classroom technology; get a bird's eye view from an inflatable slide; try geocaching (a high-tech treasure hunt); and decipher codes in a hunt for treasure. Highlighted technology includes SMART Boards, iPads and Senteo (an interactive tally system), geocaching uses global positioning system (GPS), and learning about a new educational curriculum using wildlife trail cameras. Proceeds will support school technology purchases. Cost before April 20 is \$8 per person (household maximum of \$40), \$10 thereafter (maximum \$50), and a chance to win an e-reader. This event is sponsored by the Rice Lake Parent Teacher Organization. For information call 763-792-5700 or refer to the April 6 issue of the school newsletter at www.isd12.org/rle/Wednesday/ww.htm.

Parking lot sweeping scheduled

The annual clean sweep of parking lots at all district-owned facilities is scheduled the first week of May, weather permitting. The sweeping is conducted in the late evening, early morning, and weekend time periods so it does not interfere with the school day or after school events and activities. The district apologizes in advance for any disruption to school neighbors caused by this routine maintenance.

Spring Fever family fun event set

Free games, Mother's Day card making, crazy hair, face painting, a silent auction and more runs 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 7 at Galilee Baptist Church, North Road, Circle Pines. The Spring Fever Family Fun Day and Silent Auction is sponsored by Love to Grow On (LTGO), a non-denominational Christian Child Development Center. Proceeds will help expand LTGO's summer enrichment program.



Graduation ceremonies

CALC Senior Celebration—

6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 9
Centennial Elementary

High School Commencement—

1 p.m., Saturday, June 11
Roy Wilkins Auditorium, St. Paul

Adult Basic Education—

7 p.m., Thursday, June 9
Anoka High School

Centennial ISD #12



Monday

2
School Nutrition Employee Week
Whole Grain Pepperoni or Cheese Pasta
WG Pasta/Red Sauce Salad/Dressing
Fruit Variety

1
Tyson Popcorn Chicken
Sweet Potato Fries
Wheat Dinner roll
Whole Kernel Corn
Variety of Fruit

16
Tyson Chicken Patty on a Bun
Oven Ready Fries
Mixed Green Salad/Dressing
Variety of Fruit

23
Build Your Own Burger on a Bun
Oven Ready Fries
Kev West Blend Vegetables
Lettuce/Onions
Variety of Fruit

30
NO SCHOOL

Tuesday

3
National Teacher Day
Ling's Mandarin Orange Chicken
Hearty Brown Rice
Seasoned Carrot Coins
Wheat Dinner roll
Mixed Fruit Cup

10
Maxi Cheese Stix
Whole Grain Pasta with Sauce
Garden Salad with Dressing
Variety of Fruit

17
Chicken or Cheese Quesadilla
Cup of fixings
Black Beans
Whole Kernel Corn
Variety of Fruit

24
Super Beefy Meat Sauce on Whole Grain Pasta
Warm Garlic Toast
Seasoned Green Beans
Variety of Fruit

31
Whole Grain Low Fat Chicken Mini Corn Dogs
Oven Ready Fries
Mixed Salad Greens
Wheat Dinner Roll
Variety of Fruit

Wednesday

4
Legendary Sloppy Joes on a Bun
Smile Potatoes
Whole Kernel Corn
Variety of Fruit

11
School Nurse Day
Taco Salad with Nacho Chips
Choice of Beans
Assorted fresh Veggies
Variety of Fruit
SB Cinnamon Roll

18
SCHOOL PLANNED MENU

25
Legendary Land o Lakes Macaroni & Cheese
Shrimp Poppers
Dinner Roll
Green Salad/dressing
Variety of Fruit

Thursday

5
Cinco De Mayo
Southwestern Shaped Chicken Nuggets
Black Beans/Fruit
Mixed Greens Salad
Cinnamon Churro

12
Kid's Love 'Em French Toast Stix
Pork or Turkey Breakfast Sausage
Breakfast Potatoes
Chilled Applesauce
100% Fruit Juice

19
Super Beefy Nachos
Cup of Fixings
Black Beans
Beja Roasted Vegetables
Variety of Fruit
School Baked Cinnamon Roll

26
Whole Wheat Pancakes with Fruit Topping
Colby Cheese Omelet
Hashbrown Stick
Chilled Fruit Sauce
100% Fruit Juice

Friday

6
Build Your Own Sub
Style Sandwich on Wheat Bun
Jennie-O Turkey Assorted Fixings
Oven Ready Fries
Variety of Fruit

13
May-Fly Menu
Yogurt Cup
Smuckers Uncrustable Sandwich
Bag of Baby Carrots
Grape Escape
Bug Bite Crackers

20
Ling's Teriyaki Chicken
Hearty Brown Rice
Good- 4-U Peas
Wheat Dinner Roll
Chilled Fruit Sauce
Fortune Cookie

27
Be a Star/Birthday Bash
Star Shaped Chicken Nuggets
Starz Potatoes
Garlic Toast
Garden Salad/Fruit
Swirled Frozen Juice Cup

Cold entrée choice in elementaries. Alternate lines available in secondary buildings. All meals include milk. Menu subject to change. Products have been made in district kitchens or production plants where milk, eggs, soybeans, tree nuts, peanuts and other ingredients are used.
SB=School Baked
Underline=New Item

Lunch Prices

Elem: \$2.20/day
Sec: \$46.20/mos
\$2.40/day
\$50.40/mos
Entrée: \$1.95
Milk: \$.45
Non-Student/Adult: \$3.40

Free and Reduced meals available for qualifying households. Lactose free milk available upon written request. On-line information and payment options at www.paypams.com at no cost to user.

