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Cuts hit everyone in Mounds View school district

\$1.5M slashed from \$129M budget

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Posted: 03/15/2009 12:01:00 AM CDT

Everyone in the Mounds View school district will feel the \$1.5 million in recently approved budget cuts next year, from students whose classes will get a bit more crowded to administrators who opted for a pay freeze.

For the district, hit harder than other area schools by declining enrollment the past few years, the recent economic woes were just one more blow.

"Unfortunately we're all too familiar about having to make some adjustments like this," said Superintendent Dan Hoverman.

Hoverman and his staff members have agreed to a pay freeze, which will save the district about \$25,000 next year. Additionally, any currently open positions will be reviewed before being filled.

"It's an extraordinary step born out of extraordinary times," said Jon Tynjala, school board chairman.

Mounds View schools serve about 9,600 students, with an annual budget of about \$129 million.

"This year, if you look at our budget, it looks reasonably healthy," Tynjala said. "We're in a better position than a lot of other districts are."

The cuts approved at Tuesday's meeting for the 2009-10 school year are an attempt to head off major trouble down the road, he said.

School districts across the state are dealing with budget crunches, fueled by declining enrollment, uncertainty in state aid and the struggling economy. St. Paul and Anoka-Hennepin school districts are considering cutting hundreds of jobs to make their budgets.

In Mounds View, 11 teaching positions will be

lost, saving the district about \$625,000. But Hoverman said more than half of those cuts are related to the projected enrollment decline.

The district is also raising fees \$10 for all high school activities. The board discussed raising fees for transportation, but they will remain at \$225 per student with a cap of \$500 per family.

"It really comes down to having everything on the table," Tynjala said. "We're trying to find the right balance between covering as much costs as possible without putting an unfair burden on our families."

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