

Utilization of Federal Stimulus Funds

(School Board Report – October 13, 2009)

The Federal Stimulus funds, also known as ARRA funds (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) has provided new dollars to Mounds View Schools and additional reporting requirements. I am joined by Penny Howard, Principal at Edgewood & Title I administrator and Ann Bettenburg, Director of Special Education.

The purpose of the report tonight is to give you an update on how those resources are being utilized here in our District. Answer any questions you may have. And in a later agenda item, request approval to amend our budgets to account for the new Special Ed & Title I resources.

There are three major entitlements that Mounds View is receiving over a 27 month period:

- State Fiscal Stabilization Funds of \$5.9million (\$5,932,549)
- Title I Funds of \$700,00 (\$677,013)
- Special Education IDEA Funds of \$2.2 million (\$2,196,864)
- For a total of \$8.8 million in ARRA funds

Guidance from US Dept of Education included the following:

- Spend funds quickly to retain or create jobs
- Improve student achievement through school improvement
- Ensure transparency and accountability
- Invest one-time funds thoughtfully to minimize the funding cliff

Mounds View is using these funds to retain or create jobs.

- The Governor chose to issue State Fiscal Stabilization funds and reduce state aids for K-12 education in Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Because this is not new funding, Mounds View, like many other MN school district, are utilizing all of these federal funds to retain the equivalent of 75 full time positions across the district
- Title I and Special Education are one-time funding increases, therefore the District chose to minimize the funding cliff and use very little of the funding for job creation. Mounds View created the equivalent of 7.5 full time positions within our Title Schools, Special Education and interventions

Mounds View is using the funding to improve student achievement.

- The majority of the Title I & Special Education funding is being used to provide additional educational services for students identified within these existing funding mechanisms by building capacity which will have long-term impact
- Approximately 60% of this funding will be utilized in 2009-10 and the balance in 2010-11
- School improvements are being gained by enhancing existing systems such as:

- a. Additional technology equipment purchases such as
 - i. Document cameras & projectors
 - ii. Updated computers for special ed staff
 - iii. Mobile labs
 - iv. Additional computers for Read 180 and System 44
 - v. Smart Boards
 - vi. CD players
 - vii. Upgrade fiber connections for Special Ed sites
- b. Additional training and curriculum materials such as
 - i. Orton-Gillingham training for reading cohorts
 - ii. Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Learning Strategies
 - iii. System 44 and Read 180 materials & training
 - iv. Math and Science writing projects and training
 - v. PBIS
 - vi. CPI training
 - vii. Support for RTI planning efforts
- c. Additional tests and materials include:
 - i. Additional W-J instruments
 - ii. Another ADOS kit
 - iii. New STAGES and NETS classrooms
 - iv. Student Plan with the ten Sigma license
 - v. Flip Cameras
 - vi. Additional Read 180 & System 44 licenses
 - vii. Additional HM materials
 - viii. Edmark and Read Naturally Curriculum
 - ix. Touch Math Curriculum
 - x. Additional grade level materials
 - xi. Adaptive materials

Mounds View is meeting the accountability and transparency of funding.

- The process utilized for prioritizing the Title I and Special Education funding has been integrated and included staff, parents and administration
- Jobs retained and created have been reported to the Minnesota Department of Education
- Budgets for each of the funding entitlements have been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education through their new reporting system called SERVS
- The draw-down of the federal funds are on a reimbursement basis

We believe that Mounds View Schools are utilizing these resources as intended and making long term investments with one-time funding.