

Meeting The Needs Of Our Students

A PROPOSAL TO REVIEW EFFICIENCIES AND OPERATIONS OF THE WEST DES MOINES SCHOOL DISTRICT CENTRAL OFFICE

Purpose. The purpose of this study is to review and identify the organization, services, structure and staffing that historically and currently exists in the West Des Moines School District central office. The examination of current practices will be done with a fresh perspective by an independent consultant with multiple State and school district experiences. The ultimate goal is to identify potential areas to increase services, streamline efficiencies without a reduction in level of service and to suggest areas that may need to be reduced in order for the District to meet its' primary mission.

Need. The economic storms confronting Iowa school districts today are significant and substantial. State tax collections and a reluctance to increase tax rates has led to school district revenues being decreased below projections or at best held level while costs, which are often times mandated or minimally containable, continue to rise. No school district is immune to these economic pressures and the West Des Moines School District is caught in the path of this economic headwind that is straining the Board of Education's and administration's attempts to provide a comprehensive level of central office support. The flow of dollars within the School District's budget has encountered new currents created by this economic storm and an unexpected enrollment decline. Tension will continue to rise as the pressure on current resource streams will exceed the ability to feed existing programs and services.

Outcomes. It is hoped that this study will be able to clarify the current level of service provided by the central office of the West Des Moines School District and where savings and potential improved efficiencies exist that could:

- A. Better meet the needs of students by redirecting resources to academic programs and staffing levels in an equitable fashion.
- B. Eliminate underutilized or underperforming systems and implement new systems of operations that are more cost effective.
- C. Clearly demonstrate the cost and funding possibilities for aspects of the School Districts current models of conducting business.
- D. Create a clear picture of "what is" or the current situation contrasted to "what might be" or a desired future for the West Des Moines School District operations in meeting the School Districts core mission, "...to educate responsible lifelong learners so that each student possesses the skills, knowledge, creativity, sense of self-worth and values necessary to thrive in and contribute to a diverse and changing world".

Cost and project leader. The cost of the study will be determined and is dependent upon the scope and detail of the study. It is anticipated that the current design would require a maximum of 10 consultant days at a rate of \$850 per day with a cost not to exceed \$8,500 plus actual expenses. Payment will be due upon submission of an invoice by Ted Blaesing LLC after the completion and presentation of the study results. Dr. Ted Blaesing will lead and conduct all phases of the study.

Project components and flow. Major elements of the study are depicted in the following flow chart.

WEST DES MOINES COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL OFFICE EXAMINATION

PROJECT DESIGN AND FLOW CHART

