
Iraan-Sheffield Independent School District

Michael Meek - Superintendent

Excellence: Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

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December 28, 2018

Recently, I notified staff of changes that will be occurring due to events that have led to a significant loss of revenue for the district. I would like to address these issues in further detail to answer questions and provide information to the communities of Iraan-Sheffield ISD regarding these events and the necessary program changes and budget cuts we are facing.

Two events caused a major loss of revenue for the district. At the end of June, 2018, we were informed by the Texas Military Division that the Texas Challenge Academy in Sheffield would close at the end of the current class in August, 2018. Due to the closure of that campus, we lost almost 25% of our students. In July, 2018, we received our certified taxable values from the Pecos County Appraisal District and were informed that we were experiencing a 16.4% drop in tax values rather than a 10% increase as we were told back in May. These were the main factors that caused an overall loss of almost 40% of projected revenue for ISISD.

As we looked at available options, cuts were made this year in all areas including supplies, travel, and equipment and in all program areas. Final cuts will have to be made in personnel for next year and will be significant as we were facing a substantial loss of projected revenue. To balance the budget, we will have to cut approximately 1/3 of staff. We will also close the JH campus for a period of time to enable the best use of staff and space.

We are also looking at reducing the number of school days which will help by cutting utility costs and allowing time for people to make appointments and run errands. This should help with absences in both staff and students. We fully intend to continue teaching with excellence. The school board has adopted the following vision statement - **Excellence: Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day**. We will not deviate from providing the best possible education for our students.

The recent bond election will help the district to replace route buses, technology and perform much needed renovations to the parking lot, field house, concession stand, and ticket booth. We would be unable to do any of this without the bond. Unfortunately, state law does not allow this money to be used for day to day operations or for salaries. Therefore, it cannot help us with our current funding crisis, but will help us to purchase much needed equipment and renovations.

It is not an easy process and definitely not one we take lightly. All of these decisions were made after much discussion and after weighing all options. I welcome your comments and suggestions as we work together to ensure that our students continue to receive an excellent education and continue the rich traditions that make us Braves and Bravettes.

Michael Meek
Superintendent, Iraan-Sheffield ISD