

SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE
Summary of Decisions
April 30, 2012

The School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) met in a special session on Monday, April 30, 2012, at the Department of Education, ICN Room, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146. The following members were present: Director Jason Glass, Department of Education, Director Dave Roederer, Department of Management, and public committee members Jane Babcock, Gina Primmer, Brian Thilges, and Leland Tack. Votes were unanimous except where noted.

All decisions by the Committee shall be made in accordance with reasonable and uniform policies which shall be consistent with chapter 257. All such policies of general application shall be stated in rules adopted in accordance with chapter 17A. The Committee shall take into account the intent of chapter 257 to equalize educational opportunity, to provide a good education for all the children of Iowa, to provide property tax relief, to decrease the percentage of school costs paid from property taxes, and to provide reasonable control of school costs. The Committee shall also take into account the amount of funds available (257.31(10)). The SBRC shall review a school district's unexpended fund balance prior to any decision regarding unusual finance circumstances. The SBRC shall review a school district's unspent balance prior to any decision to increase modified allowable growth under subsection 257.31(5).

1. Committee Informational Items.

Update on Exira Phase II Visit. In January 2012, the Committee recommended to the Department of Education that the Department implement a phase II on-site visit to conduct a fiscal review of the Exira Community School District. The recommendation was forward to the State Board of Education for its March 29, 2012 meeting, and the State Board recommended to the Department that the Phase II visit be conducted. The team has been selected and the visit will begin on May 7, 2012.

Update on Unspent Balance List. One district, Belmond-Klemme, had a correction to its unspent balance to \$1,066,953.

2. Special Education Administrative Costs. The decision of the Committee in this matter is to grant approval for the use of special education funds for administrative costs of special education programs for the 2012-13 school year for the districts approved by the Department of Education. This action is not intended to establish a precedent for future requests.

3. Eldora-New Providence Community School District. The decision of the Committee in this matter is to grant approval to charge resident districts for administrative costs of special education programs for the 2011-2012 and 2012-13 school years in the total amount of \$2,021 per school year. This action is not intended to establish a precedent for future requests.

The Committee thanked member Jane Babcock for her service to the SBRC for these past six years.