

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

WESTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY



SILVER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Silver City, NM

OVERVIEW OF THE PRESENTATION

Today's Agenda

1. Introduction of SCSD Presentation Team
2. National History Day Presentation
3. Review of School Grades
4. Highlights of Important Happenings in the District
5. Fiscal Issues for Consideration of the LFC
6. Closing Comments/Questions



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SILVER CONSOLIDATED!

SCSD SCHOOL GRADES

SCHOOL	SY 16-17	SY 17-18
Cliff Elementary	B	B
Cliff High School	C	C
Sixth Street Elementary	C	B
G.W. Stout Elementary	C	D
Harrison Schmitt Elem	D	B
Jose Barrios Elementary	A	A
La Plata Middle School	F	C
Silver High School	C	C
Opportunity High School	D	C



INFORMATION ON SCSD ENROLLMENT TRENDS

SCHOOL YEAR	80/120 DAY AVERAGE
2012-2013	3032.75
2013-2014	2961.50
2014-2015	2900.00
2015-2016	2875.50
2016-2017	2711.50



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SILVER CONSOLIDATED!

HIGHLIGHTS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR THE DISTRICT

Silver High School

INSTRUCTION

- Implementation of Project Lead the Way for Computer Science
- School Connect—Freshmen Transition Program to High School
- STEM Activities where students compete in Robotics Competitions
- Increase in Dual Credit/Career Technical Education (CTE) Classes for college/high school credit

STUDENT WELL-BEING

- Stop!t App—allows students to report incidents anonymously
- Freshmen Academy—4 core teachers with collaborative time to address student needs, both social-emotional and academic



HIGHLIGHTS, CONT'D

La Plata Middle School

INSTRUCTION

- Students participated with the 30-Day Kickoff Challenge for the school year with perfect attendance the goal—12 individuals being recognized by the DARE and JPPO Truancy Programs with gift cards and backpacks
- Bronco Plus program is a 25 min time each day for students to get remediation or enrichment with teachers having collaboration time to adapt instruction to individual needs

STUDENT WELL-BEING

- Open House on August 27, 2018 gave parents an opportunity to meet their students' teachers with one of highest turnouts in recent memory



HIGHLIGHTS, CONT'D

Silver Scholars Academy

- Issued a Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant to start a new Pre-K
- Currently, 55 Students in 4-yr old program; 12 in 3-yr old program
- Wrap around services to assist 20 families with before/after school childcare
- All staff are currently certified with an Early Childhood Degree or are attending classes to become highly qualified
- Parental involvement is a key to its early success as students/parents are met twice daily for pick-up/drop-off with teacher/parent contact for daily events and happenings at the school



HIGHLIGHTS, CONT'D

Other Buildings

Cliff Elementary/High School

- Academic Support Classes in Grades 7-12 have been implemented to support struggling students along with K-12 commitment to reading/writing blocks to improve student skills

Jose Barrios

- “A” for three straight years with development of growth mindset for students and staff and fully functioning PLC’s for the building to address needs

G.W. Stout

- Implementation of PLC processes to evaluate Student Performance and provide necessary supports through interventions for all students during “WIN TIME”



HIGHLIGHTS, CONT'D

Other Buildings

Harrison Schmitt

- Increased engagement strategies for students including literacy centers, personalized goal setting and use of Google Classroom, specifically for upper elementary grades

Sixth Street

- 2017-2018 created a Kindergarten Building with full support and services with fully operational PLC structures to meet student and parent needs



HIGHLIGHTS, CONT'D

Other District Highlights

Silver High School finishing 2nd Overall in the Director's Cup for 4A for the New Mexico Activities Association that recognizes participation, achievement and sportsmanship in line with the NMAA standards

Passage of a bond issue that assists in maintenance and upkeep of our current facilities

National History Day—team from La Plata qualified for Nationals for a 5th consecutive year with great support from the community and businesses to allow them to travel



HIGHLIGHTS, CONT'D

SCSD District Activities

- Implementation of Instructional Supports and Activities through our Instructional Coaching program (5 coaches based on grade levels)
- Partnerships seeking research/funding opportunities to expand CTE Opportunities for students in Grades 5-12
 - STEAM Ahead for Student Success
 - Core Learning Exchange PD Opportunity-two grants submitted
 - Expanding program opportunities with WNMU Dual Credit (CTE emphasis)
 - Embedded Curriculum Initiative with technical and employability skills
- COMMUNITY DIALOGUE—Oct 10, 2018 from 11A-2P @ Convention Center
 - Discussing regional employment needs and desires with our Workforce Development partners for future planning and action items



PRAISES OF CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS

- Pre-K Funding provided from PED to reach more students and support in getting the school started and progressing has been phenomenal!
- Teacher raises has been a great morale boost and appreciated for this school year.
- Instructional Coaches have been a great support to our teachers and use of Title I Funds to be get them in place has helped with professional development of teachers.
 - Please consider additional state support and funding models that encourage collaboration and shared responsibility between districts and regional education centers with pass-through ability to districts for implementation (similar to Admin Licensure program with Cooperative Educational Services)



FISCAL ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LFC

UNFUNDED MANDATES TO DISTRICTS

Employer Costs of Medical Insurance

YEAR	EMPLOYER INSURANCE PREMIUM
2015-2016	4.00%
2016-2017	8.93%
2017-2018	3.98%
2018-2019	4.00%

*Medical Premiums have gone up every year since 2011 with no offset funds being issued
We understand this is a national issue, but greatly impacts our budget to provide student services.



FISCAL ISSUES, CONT'D

UNFUNDED MANDATES TO DISTRICTS

Employer Costs of Retirement Benefits

YEAR	RETIREMENT BENEFIT	% INCREASE
2010-2011	10.90%	
2011-2012	11.65%	.75%
2012-2013	12.40%	.75%
2013-2014	13.15%	.75%
2014-2015	13.90%	.75%

Discussion of another increase to keep Retirement Fund solvent for the future.



FISCAL ISSUES, CONT'D

Timing of Release to Appropriations to Public Schools

- The funds being received are greatly appreciated for special appropriations, but the timing of distribution of the funds is problematic at times for districts.

Example: Last year, SCSD received a disbursement in March/April 2018 of \$1 Million to be spent by June 30, 2018 (close of the fiscal year)

Our Board had to approve the Budget Adjustment Requests (BARs) and had to be entered in our Operating Budget Management System (OBMS) for allocations to be approved by NMPED.

Once approved by PED, we start shopping in alignment with state procurement laws as we must receive the items before payment can be issued.

We do lots of online ordering since we are in rural, Southwest NM and timelines cannot be met for payment prior to close of the fiscal year, meaning funds are returned unspent.



FISCAL ISSUES, CONT'D

Possible Solutions to Timelines for Special Appropriations

- Release of funds earlier in fiscal year than March/April so districts can send through the Budget Management Process at the local level sooner and be able to meet state procurement requirements, especially for large ticket items that may be considered to have to go through RFA process
- Allowance for districts to set aside the money in previous year and pay in the current fiscal year if delivery is guaranteed to be made by July 31 of the next fiscal year.
 - This will allow districts to go through proper processes and still be able to buy items that are of importance to district and student needs and not be impaired by slow processes for approval
- Changes to state procurement law that allow schools to carryover Special Appropriations for a period of time so due diligence and fiscal responsibility can be exercised



FISCAL ISSUES, CONT'D

Restrictions Placed on SB9 & HB33 Funding

- Current limitations placed on districts with regards to millage appropriations for these funds and limits the district's ability to address issues that arise promptly

EXAMPLE: District currently has to acquire a contractor before supplies can be bought, but with timing of processes, the supply costs increase while waiting for contractor bids

SB9 allows for this to happen, but HB33 does not—there are inconsistencies that districts could save money if given more flexibility to leverage open-source funding streams

Further, SB9 addresses other material needs that are not directly linked to maintenance and upkeep of facilities (ex. copier purchases, equipment and instructional supplies, etc.)

POSSIBLE SOLUTION: Rework the rules governing facilities mil fund sources so the monies can be easily used for the purposes they were intended to support maintenance and upkeep of facilities.



FISCAL ISSUES, CONT'D

Coordination of Efforts for Projects between PED, PSFA and the Legislature

- Our Pre-K project has to meet various, different reporting and submission timelines for the project with each competing against each other.

TIMELINE: Grant submission to PED was due in March 2018 with a stated two-week process with the district submitting funding request to PSFA at the same time for a Pre-K Capital Improvement Funding

Work had to be done over the summer while waiting for funding answers so district proceeded with project to convert Opportunity HS to Silver Scholars Academy despite not getting formal approval from PED until late May 2018. Pre-K funding was not released until mid-July 2018 with MOU not complete and capital improvement award still pending into October 2018 for conversion project.

POSSIBLE SOLUTION: Mandatory payment of capital amounts when a project is completed prior to the capital awards process being completed.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS BY THE LFC

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

School Accountability with new “Class of 2020” Graduation Requirements—incentivize districts to add Priority Workforce Programs that meet local employment needs as well as consider a “Value-Added Model” for school accountability and student success that tracks industry credentials and certificates earned, apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, military placements and actual “Transition to Work” opportunities for those students that gain the necessary “work skills” by passing the WorkKeys or other recognized assessment.

Teacher Preparation at the District Level—allows districts more flexibility and funding in training our teachers for 21st Century Classrooms as the current Alternative Licensure is duplicating an old, teacher preparation model that does not currently fit expectations for teacher performance while expecting new teachers to the field from alternate professions to be Effective in the first two years.

- create regional “Professional Development Hubs” where districts can partner to address regional teacher needs and develop programs that address practical, applied learning for our teachers in the field with metrics for performance over a 3-5 year period



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS BY THE LFC

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Dual Enrollment Funding Model and Shared Responsibility between All Partners—view dual enrollment as an investment opportunity rather than a funding mechanism. Leverage service through shared partnerships with Perkins, WIOA (a requirement for the funding) and other funding streams that support highly-skilled, high priority career pathways in the state.

Possible Solution: Invest more dollars into a shared service system with pre-determined, negotiated caps on tuition for Dual Enrollment courses between districts and postsecondary institutions with shared costs and responsibilities that are fair to all parties to cover true costs of operation for the institutions.

Another question to be considered for future opportunity should be:

How do we leverage workforce/economic development dollars along with educational dollars to create high quality programs and initiatives that align to local, regional and state economic and workforce development needs and goals?



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS BY THE LFC

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Concern over “Transitional Confusion” with New Administration—a genuine concern exists that any change of administration causes confusion and concerns that will occur in the transition from old to new. Consideration needs to be given to how school districts can help support and improve upon systems in place to support the education of our students. Change creates uncertainty, but the earlier that district leadership can give input and suggested improvements from the field, the better for the students of NM



CLOSING COMMENTS

**Thank you for your time today and consideration
of these issues for the future of New Mexico!**

Closing Comments/Questions?

