

SUMMARY OF BUDGET SURVEY

prepared by Daniel Kam, Budget Committee Secretary (October 26, 2014)

A budget survey was sent out to staff on 10/15/14 after recommendations from the curriculum and instruction committee to the budget committee secretary. After waiting about ten days, the budget secretary looked at the data from 25 out of the about 80 staff (including counselors, administrators, and teachers) who responded the survey. Here are the results:

Of the approximately 33% of staff who responded at Verdugo, the results were:

- Computer use in classrooms:
 - 164 computers in classrooms
 - 130 of those computers being used for students
 - 41 computers for teacher use
 - Average computers per class is 6.56 with standard deviation of 10.3
- 10 out of 25 teachers have a document camera. This means that 40% of teachers surveyed have a working document camera.
- 17 out of 25 teachers have a working projector. This means that 68% of teachers surveyed have a working projector.
- 9 out of 25 teachers surveyed would use turnitin.com. This means that 36% of teachers surveyed would use turnitin.com in their classrooms.
- For printing needs,
 - 14 out of 25 teachers surveyed said they only print a small amount in their classrooms and copy the rest of their materials on the copy machines.
 - 3 out of 25 teachers said they print almost everything for their classroom on their classroom printer.
 - 2 out of 25 teachers said they print everything from a USB and do not have a printer in their classroom.
 - 5 out of 25 gave other responses including handwriting materials for their classroom, putting assignments online, and using printers in the health office or computer room.

Teachers were also asked to give qualitative feedback on the budget. Here is a summary of that data:

- Feedback from science department (V. Mendez)
 - need for technology such as probes that can act as digital thermometers
 - probes need to be connected to a computer to get real data.
 - most carts with computers have outdated computers (XP or windows 2000)
- General feedback on technology
 - All teachers need a laptop that can hook up to a project, an ELMO. Need these before we start buying programs (like turnitin.com) OR give teachers a stipend (B. Henry)
- General feedback on allocations for departments

- small budget for classroom supplies based on number of teachers or we could have a teacher store for those purchases (R. Wilson)
- each department should meet to assess their needs and then submit their request for said items with rationale (R. Wilson).
- The budget should be calculated based on the maintenance and consumables needed for the classroom. For example, if a hard drive and a monitor go dead, these two items will wipe out of my art budget for the year. After replacing those items, there won't be anything left for consumables such as toners, paper, etc. (K. Yip)
- Computers being purchased by the school should be allocated based on the need of the classroom. It is fine for some general ed. classes to use slower systems that only need word processing and web search, but it is not good for classes such as Digital Imaging, Animation, or Video. These classes require systems that can handle high resolution rendering. If this is not fair enough of a reason, I would suggest setting aside a budget so labs can slowly rotate out obsolete computers each year. (K. Yip)
- Fund departments on a per teacher basis; if funded by department, all members must be privy to how money is utilized. (A. Talbott)
- Departments should be funded to meet instructional needs first. The base of this, after textbooks, should be supplies and materials necessary to teach the subject. Certain subjects are materials based--notably Art & Science (material based practical projects are required by state standards and theoretical substitutes to these projects are expressly prohibited). The need for materials in Science is only going to grow with Common Core--which emphasizes practical projects in Science. (W. McBride)
- Either fund departments as a whole unit, or fund every single course separately. Do not break up some departments across multiple funding categories, while keeping other departments whole. This is inequitable. (W. McBride)
- Pay attention to the budget requests departments send to you (W. McBride)
- Budget for the whole year, not just one semester. (W. McBride)
- Technology-based classes like Digital Imaging and Computer Science are extremely expensive. These computers are necessary for these classes and are not the same as general technology expenditures. These computers are more comparable to textbooks and necessary materials. The typical computer lasts 7 years. So figure on replacing computers every 7 years. Computers can be replaced all at once (something that the school could not afford to do without a supplemental grant), or a few each year. Either way, this expense needs to be planned for. (W. McBride)
- General feedback on needs for teachers
 - Ink for teachers printers, extra projectors and speakers for check out (R. Wilson)
 - Thumb drives or zip drives so we can back up our grades and stuff and other paper work (R. Wilson)
 - fund the purchase of Turnitin.com. As an English teacher, this will save literally hours of work checking for spelling, grammar, and plagiarism issues in student essays, and will prepare our students for the college/university environment (J. Mendelsohn)
 - I would also like to see each classroom teacher receive a stipend for class supplies, eg copy paper, markers, pens, ink carts, etc. (J. Mendelsohn)

- I need computers for my students. I need a projector and any other electronic device that can help me with my class (J. Benitez)
- Many teachers provide their own ink and their own printers. This impacts how people are able to print at school (M. Arentoft)
- Be certain that teachers can update computers for routine issues. Help teachers to utilize media easily and consistently for lessons. Be certain that all accessories necessary to operate devices be purchased or available to "check out"...ex. cords to utilize projectors with computers, cords for projector to use remote. In other words, one complete set of fully operational media devices. (A. Talbott)
- I do not NEED turn it in, but I would use it if we had access to it. I really need consistent upkeep on my existing computers, so I'm not interested in NEW technology, but simply, upkeep of existing technology. (L. Young)
- The purchase of computers that support MISIS and other new system/system software for classroom teachers (R. Franco)
- Ink cartridges for printing in class. Getting tired of funding the district. I have to print tests for all algebra 1 and 2 teachers. (S. Finch)