



# Spartan Quarterly

**Newsletter Focus:**

- Financial Information
- District Leadership Team Meeting Summary: Waiver Days

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## From the Superintendent

Dear Staff:

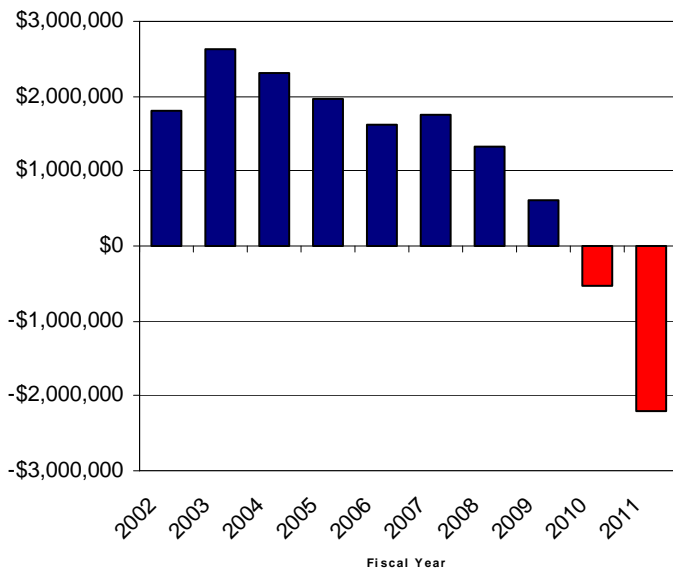
As many of you know, a coalition of school organizations is working on getting a constitutional amendment for school funding on the November '07 ballot. Unfortunately the time-frame that surrounds this issue will not help districts facing financial crisis for several years.

Over the last few years, Alexander carried a cash balance of over one million dollars per year. In school year 2006-07, the district made cuts totaling over \$200,000 and will end the year breaking even. (Costs = revenue) From 2007 and beyond, the District will begin using up the million dollar cash balance quite readily. Our five-year forecast begins to show a deficit of \$500,000 in 2009-10 and in 2010-11 we are projecting a 2.2 million dollar deficit.

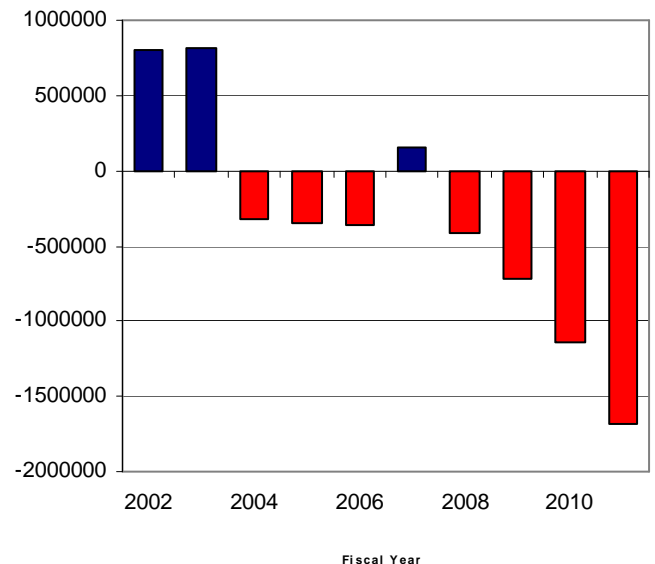
Knowing the state budget for all government agencies will be quite low for fiscal '08-09, I have begun a review of our budget and where we can control some costs. I am open to any and all solutions, but our goal must always be to live within the money we have. We will not seek a tax levy or income tax. These solutions penalize all of Alexander employees, parents, and landowners. This is a flaw in the way districts like Alexander are funded.

Beginning at the March Board of Education meeting, I will begin to present options to reduce the budget. I believe that the more cuts we are able to make this year, the more secure the future of Alexander Schools will be. My target reduction is \$400,000. Most cuts will be made through reassignment or attrition.

**Historic and Projected End Of Year Cash Balances**



**Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures**



This graph shows the results of our projection assumptions on CASH. No one can predict a cash balance To The Penny. That is why we should consider trends rather than exact dollar amounts. For example, a declining cash balance may indicate a trend that needs to be addressed.

The above graph shows the annual operating surplus or deficit of the District. This may be the most important management information tool the District has at its disposal because it indicates trends. When expenditures begin to exceed revenues on a regular basis, it signals a need for decisions regarding either increasing revenue or decreasing expenditures.

# District Leadership Team Meeting Summary

The District Leadership Team (DLT) met on December 19, 2006 with the purpose of reviewing and monitoring the Waiver Day implementation and to make recommendations for the 2007-2008 school year to Mr. Bray. Representation from all buildings, OAPSE, ALEA, and administration (transportation, food service, and facilities) were present.

After reviewing the +/- charts from all areas, the DLT summarized the information by looking for trends across the data. Positive trends included time for collaboration, more time than the previous set-up, consistent times, flexibility, and short time between meetings. There were 80 positive comments across the buildings and administration. Opportunities for improvement included either not enough time or in some cases too much time; contractual questions (What is a Waiver Day? What is common planning? Individual Planning?); starting time; and no time for professional development. There were 51 opportunities for improvement listed.

**Mr. Bray posed the following questions to the DLT concerning Waiver Days for the 2007-2008 school year.** (Please note the answers documented reflect the team's response and not necessarily individual responses.)

**1. Do we support Waivers Days?**

Response: Yes, the District Leadership Team

**2. How many Waiver Days are needed?**

Response: We would suggest that the district apply for (5) Waiver Days.

**3. What do we want Waiver Days to look like (structure)?**

Response: Because the current structure is a Memorandum of Understanding which expires at the end of the 2006-2007 school year, we listed preferred options:

1. Current Structure—1 Hr. increments
2. Majority as 1-Hr sessions and (1) full day
3. All Full Day Waivers Days

**4. What are Waiver Days?**

Response: DLT members were given ODE's definition of a Waiver Day along with how the district viewed Waiver Days. As a result, the following chart was developed.

Waiver Days are . . .	Waiver Days are not . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• measurable.</li><li>• linked to continuous improvement &amp; innovative programs.</li><li>• professional development aimed towards improved student achievement.</li><li>• are meant to impact student learning.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• time off.</li><li>• for completing tasks in my normal job.</li><li>• isolated to one day but should be reflected throughout the school year (on-going).</li><li>• a given or guaranteed.</li></ul>

**5. What activities are acceptable during Waiver Days or Hours?**

Response: Baldrige Training, Goal Team Mtgs., Short Cycle Assessment analysis & development, Rubric Development, Data analysis, grading of Short Cycle Assessments, Writing Prompts, OGT practice tests, Vertical Collaboration, Intervention strategies, shared practices with staff, developing & writing assessments, unit development with integration of Write Track, Quality Tools, etc. Poverty training, curriculum alignment, grade level/dept. planning, disseminating info., Reading First, other professional development as related to School Improvement, parent conferences (1-hour increments not full days), technology training.

If anyone has any questions or would like a copy of the District Leadership Team minutes please send an e-mail to [kboch@alexanderschools.org](mailto:kboch@alexanderschools.org). Summaries of DLT meetings will be in future newsletters.