

Mason budget



Rebekah Barnes | Online Editor

With the failure of the levy in November 2010, the Mason City School district has been cutting costs throughout the school system but, according to Debbie Delp, Board of Education President, the budget is now on the right track.

"[The district's] really stepped up to the plate all the way around...to put us on a healthy footing," Delp said.

According to Delp, cuts have been made across the district, which can be hard for the School Board to decide.

"We've seen cuts that have impacted every level of the organization, and that's hard to do," Delp said.

Mason High School Calculus teacher,

Kristina Broaddrick, said that she thinks that the Board and district do well at making sure students don't feel the pressure of the cuts.

"[Mason does] a good job of making sure the students are the last one to see the brunt of budget cuts that need to happen," Broaddrick said. "I think in that respect, we are very fortunate at Mason."

However, according to senior Nadine Zaki, budget cuts are being felt by students through larger class sizes and cutting of courses. Zaki said that she thinks these cuts doesn't allow for students to experience high school and find what they want to do in life.

According to Broaddrick, whenever a district makes cuts, there is some sort of impact on student achievement in the long run.

"I think any time you cut any kind of services you are going to see some type of effect," Broaddrick said. "Our hope is to minimize that effect on student achievement."

One area that the Board has cut back on is busing and transportation in the district, said Delp. By consolidating bus stops, the district will save \$350,000 for the 2011-2012 school year, according to Mason's "Cost Reduction Plan."

Delp said that this was an alternative to cutting busing all together like surrounding districts such as Lakota Local Schools. According to Delp, cutting busing would not make a large dent in savings, but it could make the public upset.

"I know a lot of places [just cut busing] and...[it] get[s] people all mad," Delp said. "That's not one of the areas where you're going to see the big impact [on finances] anyway, unless you are going to get rid of buses all together. It's really not worth it."

For freshman bus rider Alex Stephenson, the movement of his bus stop meant an extra five to seven minute commute.

"I was kind of mad because...I had to get up earlier to get the bus, and I didn't really want to get up earlier," Stephenson said. "[It takes] about five to seven minutes [to get to my stop.]"

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