

What can be done at the state level to achieve economies of scale and free up local operating funds?

- Could educators be offered the same health benefit and retirement plans that are available to state employees? Why are educators treated, in this regard, as “second-class” citizens by the state of Texas?
- Can student and financial information systems be handled at the state level, with districts networking in the same manner “global” businesses handle this function?
- Investigate and determine a possible reduction in bond issuance costs through state participation in the bond sale process.
- In the fall of '07, I suggested to the Board and Superintendent, that the district should become active in the “Raise Your Hand Texas” organization, in order to more effectively lobby our legislature.

“No cost” enhancements to classroom learning.

- Bring more business and community resources into the classroom than currently takes place.
- Examples:
  - I brought a cardiologist from a local medical practice together with key district health and science professionals. Plans are underway to present a special class, via distance-learning, to high school biology and middle school health classes; a heart health seminar will be presented to all district nursing personnel that they can then present to their campus colleagues; a presentation on student athlete heart health issues is being planned for district athletic trainers.
  - I arranged for Administaff recruiting professionals to participate in high school public speaking classes to supplement the interview skills portion of the curriculum.

Investigate:

- Expansion of leasing school facilities during non-school hours provided necessary safety/security policies are in place.
- Advertising revenue streams.
  - Through Administaff’s media buying contacts, I am in the process of obtaining a proposal from an outdoor media company related to potential signage sites in the district.
- Partner with developers to build new schools adjacent to developers “green areas”.
- Expansion of the Lone Star College-Kingwood relationship.
  - Greater communication to students/parents of two year programs available.
    - Bookkeeper vs. CPA
    - IT Professionals
- District staff training at “community college prices.”
- Greater utilization of library resources.

- Utilizing Honor Society students as classroom resources to help at underperforming elementary schools.
  - Credit course for students
- Initiating a “workforce re-entry” program where those wanting to gain current work experience can participate in a one-year, non-paid internship.
- Development of a regional consortium to purchase school buses.

What can be done to have new growth areas (currently undeveloped) pay a more equitable share of the resulting cost of growth?

- Consider following an “adequate public facilities” requirement.
  - Work with developers/builders to assure that adequate facilities are built simultaneously, so that students have what they need, when they need it, to promote their education.
- Work with legislators to have MUD’s expand their charge to include school building funding or utilize limited-life Tax Management Districts.
  - People moving into those areas would know this tax would be in place for some period of time.
  - No surprises and no impact on property owners in developed areas.

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