Madison Metropolitan School District
2010-2011 Budget Development
Amendments

Amendment Number: **AA-12**

Topic: Expulsion Navigator Position

Submitted by: Lucy Mathiak
Date: 4/20/10

Proposed Amendment:

Eliminate the Expulsion Navigator position, reallocate funds to restore HSED contract and summer programs for Penn Park and Lindbergh Schools, apply the remaining $17,000 to property tax relief.

Tier (if applicable):
Discussion Item (if applicable):

#	Unit	Item	FTE	$	Tier
162	Affiliated Alternatives	Cut HSED contracts (Omega School)		46,000	2
37	MSCR	Penn Park Camp Ellimination		16,762	MSCR
32	MSCR	Summer Program Elimination- Lindbergh		20,000	MSCR
				82,762	

Rationale: This position has not been implemented in the way explained to and accepted by the board. At this time, it is very difficult to see what value is added by the position, and we are not in a fiscal position to maintain a position at this level of expenditure without clear and concrete benefits to students and schools.

The position was created in response to board concerns over inequities in student and parent understandings of rights and processes BEFORE the expulsion decision is rendered. There was and is a sense that economically disadvantaged families face particular barriers to advocacy and protection of rights during the process. The absence of the navigator in hearings, and the number of hearings where the navigator was introduced to the family and student for the first time, indicates that the original vision was abandoned fairly quickly.

We do not have the luxury of investing in a position that has not lived up to its purpose. The benefits of the programs to be reinstated are clear and necessary.

FTE: 1.0

Savings: $83,277

Impact:

Response by: Steve Hartley
Date:4/22/10

We are going to propose using the 1.0 Expulsion Social Worker (Navigator) allocation be used to create an Abeyance model. Under this budget amendment this allocation would not be available for that program.

We are in the process of finalizing recommendations for a number of Disciplinary Options including an Expulsion Abeyance Model. Our plan is to greatly decrease the number of recommendations for expulsion and actual expulsions. Under the Abeyance model, at the point where an Assistant Superintendent approves the recommendation for expulsion and in the case of a special education student, after a Manifestation Determination show the behavior was not a manifestation of the students disability, the student and family would be offered the abeyance program instead of going to an expulsion hearing.

The program would minimally be supported by a 1.0 teacher and 1.0 guidance counselor. (We are still working on finding other pieces of allocation). Staff would be responsible for online academic curriculum, transitions between schools and the program, assessments, social emotional curriculum and services related to the behavior that lead to the recommendation for expulsion. Community options for social emotional behavior would still be used.

For students the program would be 3 hours long per day. There would be an AM section and a PM section. Students would have a contract similar to "early re-admission conditions". Those students who are successful both academically and behaviorally will return to school after one semester. Students who are not successful, depending on the situation will either go through the regular expulsion process or remain in the abeyance program for an additional semester.

It is our belief and hope is that all but a handful of students will choose the Abeyance Program instead of going though the Expulsion Hearing and being expelled without services. Our intent is to put more resources into direct services to students rather than the process of expulsion. With that in mind our plan was to move the Expulsion Social Worker (Navigator) allocation to the abeyance program. Under this proposal the 1.0 allocation would not be available for the abeyance program.

A more complete Disciplinary Options report will come to the Board at the June meeting.