

**Madison Metropolitan School District
2010-2011 Budget Development
Amendments**

Amendment Number: **AA-1**

Topic: Legislative Liaison

Submitted by: Ed Hughes
Date: 4/20/10

Proposed Amendment:

1) Eliminate funding for the legislative liaison position.

Tier (if applicable):

Discussion Item (if applicable):

Rationale: This position appears to be a luxury. As far as I can tell, no other school district in the state has a registered lobbyist. Our resources can be better deployed to efforts more closely aligned to our core mission

FTE: 0.5 of 1.0 FTE reduction

Savings: \$62,389 (This assumes an increase for administrative staff and would need to be adjusted if a salary freeze or other option is approved by the board)

Cost: \$0

Impact:

Response by: Daniel Nerad
Date: 4/21/10

The District has employed a legislative liaison for many years. The purpose of this position is to monitor legislation and to advocate for the district's interest to state, federal and local governments. The current breakdown of this 1.0 fte position is as follows:

There is substantial lobbying work upon introduction of the biennial budget in the odd-numbered years (Feb-July...recent history, sometimes into the fall): analyzing the K-12 provisions, meeting with other education interest group members and others to mobilize public advocacy, discussing key components with members of the Madison Delegation and other key legislators, monitoring the bill's progress in Jt. Finance, and through the Legislature. Probably 60-70% of time in this period is lobbying-related. The remaining 30-40% of time during this period is spent on public information duties.

Following the budget's passage, there are bills to read/analyze, public hearings to attend, keeping the delegation apprized of the district's position on key bills and generally monitoring and working with the education interest groups and others. During the fall and spring session, about 50% of time is lobbying related. The remaining 50% of time during this period is spent on public information duties.

Upon adjournment of the Legislature in the spring of election years (even-numbered), the legislative work falls off considerably with possible monitoring of education-related Legislative Council studies, lobbying DPI for items in the next biennial budget and working with education interest groups to try and unite around key issues in the next budget. From May -December in even-numbered years, probably 25-30% of time is lobbying-related. The remaining 70-75% of time during this period is spent on public information duties.

The impact of this recommendation would involve the elimination of the legislative liaison portion of this 1.0 fte position, which is approximately 50% of the current 1.0 position. We would no longer provide direct lobbying services through the previously assigned position to state and federal legislators. When advocacy work is needed it would be done by the current individual in this position but to a significant lesser degree (this assumes that the options discussed in Amendment AA-2, Community Engagement and Outreach are satisfactory). The Superintendent would also assist with advocacy related functions.

The individual currently holding the legislative liaison position has a contract for next year. If a decision was made to eliminate the legislative position and not reallocate time to school and community engagement work, the only way to gain savings on this for next year is to utilize fund balance for one year.