

**Budget & Finance Advisory Committee Minutes  
January 17, 2018**

**Attendees:**

Adolphus Anderson	Stuart Berkowitz	Christian Clarke Casarez	David Edgar
Debra Haas	Rashaanne Lewis	Cathryn Mitchell	Vera Muniz
John Rocha	Brad Thompson	Ellen Torreyson	Ed VanEenoo
Travis Zander	Jennifer Zoghby	Ali Ghilarducci	Jeffrey Richard

**Call to Order – David Edgar:**

The meeting was called to order by David Edgar at 6:12 pm. Co-chair Genevieve Dell was unable to attend.

**Approval of November 15, 2017 Minutes:**

Dr. Rashaanne Lewis motioned to approve the November 15, 2017 minutes and Vera Muniz seconded.

**Communication Plan for Future Budgets:**

Community Engagement Coordinator Ali Ghilarducci spoke about the K12 Involve tool by the K12ology Company. This tool will help promote community involvement with the budget process.

Ms. Ghilarducci demonstrated how the tool works by inserting the budget deficit and other categories within the tool.

Once the community begins using it, the district will be able to collect feedback for use with development of future budgets.

Members suggested some items be added or rearranged to better utilize the feedback before it is sent out to community

**2018-2021 Budget Forecast:**

Budget Director Travis Zander explained why the district is doing a multi-year plan. Fiscal forecasts are an important road map to help point an entity in the right direction.

The district needs to identify how intermediate and longer-term challenges may shape finances before trends overtake us.

One of the biggest challenges to the budget is low student enrollment and, of course, Chapter 41. Since the district's peak enrollment in 2011-12, it has declined by 4% overall, which is approximately 1400 students per year. Affordability issues continue to affect the district's

population as families move out of the central city to the far south, southeast and northwest regions out of the district.

As property values increase, so do the costs to operate schools. Texas school districts are left struggling to absorb inflationary costs while the state benefits from changes in market conditions, namely increasing property values.

When the district's property tax value grew as a percentage, the revenue generated was greater than the chapter 41 growth. While property values are still growing, they are growing at a slower rate, which leads to chapter 41 growing at a faster rate than our revenues due to the fact recapture is based on the prior year's property tax values.

Operating expenditures have been kept at the same level. The district is looking at some deficit planning actions.

**Future Topics, Wrap-up and Adjourn:**

1. Bond Update

Meeting adjourn at 7:48 pm.