



Every School District has a Story

Michigan School Business Officials
October 29, 2024



What is your district's story?

What makes your district unique?

- District highlights and accomplishments
- Student achievement
- Culture and community
- Strategic Plan/Belief Statements

Tools to create your story?

- Involve stakeholders in your strategic planning and belief statements
- Know your audience
- Data speaks! Show student achievement data and areas to focus for growth
- District financial picture
- Build trust and create space

What stakeholders need to understand your story?

- Board of Education
- Parents and Students
- Staff
- Unions
- Community Members
- PTO, Athletic groups, band boosters, etc.
- Legislators

How do you communicate your story?

- Board of Education Meetings
- PTO/Booster monthly meetings
 - Seeking bond election
- Parent and Student Forums
- Committees of the board-ex. Finance, personnel, B&S, etc.
- Quarterly meetings with your unions
- Community Outreach
 - Community senior centers
 - District newsletters/social media
 - Community organizations such as Optimist Club, Adult & Community Ed, etc
 - Invitations to your buildings
- Staff opening day professional development
- Reaching out to city, county and state officials



How do you get buy in from stakeholders?

Build Trust and Create Space





Creating space with your stakeholders....builds trust and support

How do you create space and allow for stakeholder input?

- Parent/staff surveys
- Parent information sessions
- Include parents and staff on steering committees-ex. Strategic planning, interview teams for key administrator positions, 1:1 computer device initiatives, bond planning committees, etc.
- Invite the community into your buildings for a tour and learn about your district
- Volunteering/participating in the community

Transparency & Trust Stakeholders' Support

Stakeholders will support and communicate the story when you need it for...

- Passing a bond, sinking fund or Headlee election
- Budget challenges such as layoffs, cost reduction plans, etc.
- New initiatives at your district such as 1:1 devices for students
- Local county millage proposals ex. Enhancement Millage
- Deficit elimination plans

L'Anse Creuse Public School's Story



For our students... for our community.

NOVEMBER 5 NO-TAX-RATE INCREASE BOND PROPOSAL



District Facts-Understanding L'Anse Creuse.....

- L'Anse Creuse serves residents in Harrison Township, and portions of Clinton Township, Chesterfield and Macomb as well as sections of St. Clair Shores
- The District has approximately 37 square miles of northeast Macomb County
- Over 9,400 students served, which includes Schools of Choice students
- 20 buildings including nine elementary schools, four middle schools and two high schools. In addition, it has two childcare centers, CTE center, Adult Ed and the John R. Armstrong Performing Arts Center

District Facts-Understanding L'Anse Creuse

- L'Anse Creuse has 7 bargaining units
 - Teachers
 - Administrators
 - Paraprofessionals
 - Clerical
 - Food & Nutrition
 - Transportation
 - 52-week Support Services
- L'Anse Creuse has a bond proposal for \$188.7M on the ballot for November 5th. Not increasing the current tax rate.
 - Stakeholders important to help with the bond campaign

Financial Stability

- Budget Challenges, along with COVID funds and State Mental Health grants going away
 - Budget based on what State "says" by June 30
 - State sometimes pulls the rug out from under districts when they approve their budget by September 30
- Expenses and Revenue have been generally balanced with an on-going focus on programs for students
- Over 70% of expenses focused on instruction
- 87-88% of spending is personnel related
- 5% of spending on supplies/materials
- 3% of spending on capital outlay
- 4% of spending on purchased services

We are a “people” business – so the expense on people is not a surprise

BELIEFS

We believe in:

- High academic and behavioral expectations for all learners
 - A safe nurturing learning environment
 - Instruction that prepares students for a global society
 - Each student's individual strengths and abilities
 - Fiscal responsibility
 - Respect for all individuals
 - Collaborative partnerships with community members, parents and teachers
 - The importance of district tradition and history





Budget Considerations

\$ SCHOOL FINANCE-101 \$

- State Education Tax Dollars (6 mills) goes to Lansing.
- Funding Returns in Student Foundation Allowance (SFA) and can be prorated. Don't assume increases each year.
- Federal and State grant allocations returning to pre-COVID-19 levels. One-time COVID and mental health grants ending.
- Expect expenses increasing each year labor agreements, high inflation costs 25% higher some cases(wages, employee benefits, utilities, etc.).

Budget Challenges

- Adoption of school budgets required by June 30
 - Districts get over 80% of funding from the state
 - State doesn't have to approve their budgets until September
- Why did many districts build budgets of foundation allowance increases ranging from \$217 to \$303 per FTE and continue to include 31aa for the 2024-25?
 - Governor, House and Senate in April – June 2024 put this information out to the public, MEA, updates to Districts, etc.
 - Wild Card was the overfunding of the MPSERS health care portion of the pension system....Did your district include a portion of savings in the budget?
 - What happened on July 1 after our district budgets were approved??? Legislature and governor “switched gears”

Budget Challenges Cont.

- Negotiations
 - How do we get staff well deserved increases with limited resources?
 - Prohibitive subjects now required to bargain
- High Inflation
 - Costs considerably higher than Pre-Covid
 - Needs to be factored in the budget, without revenue increases at similar rates
- Prior budget decision impacts-How did your district use the ESSER grants and other mental health, safety grants?
 - Used for one-time purchases
 - Hired new staff to address learning loss, student mental health, safety, etc.
 - Supplanted regular operational expenses to the grants

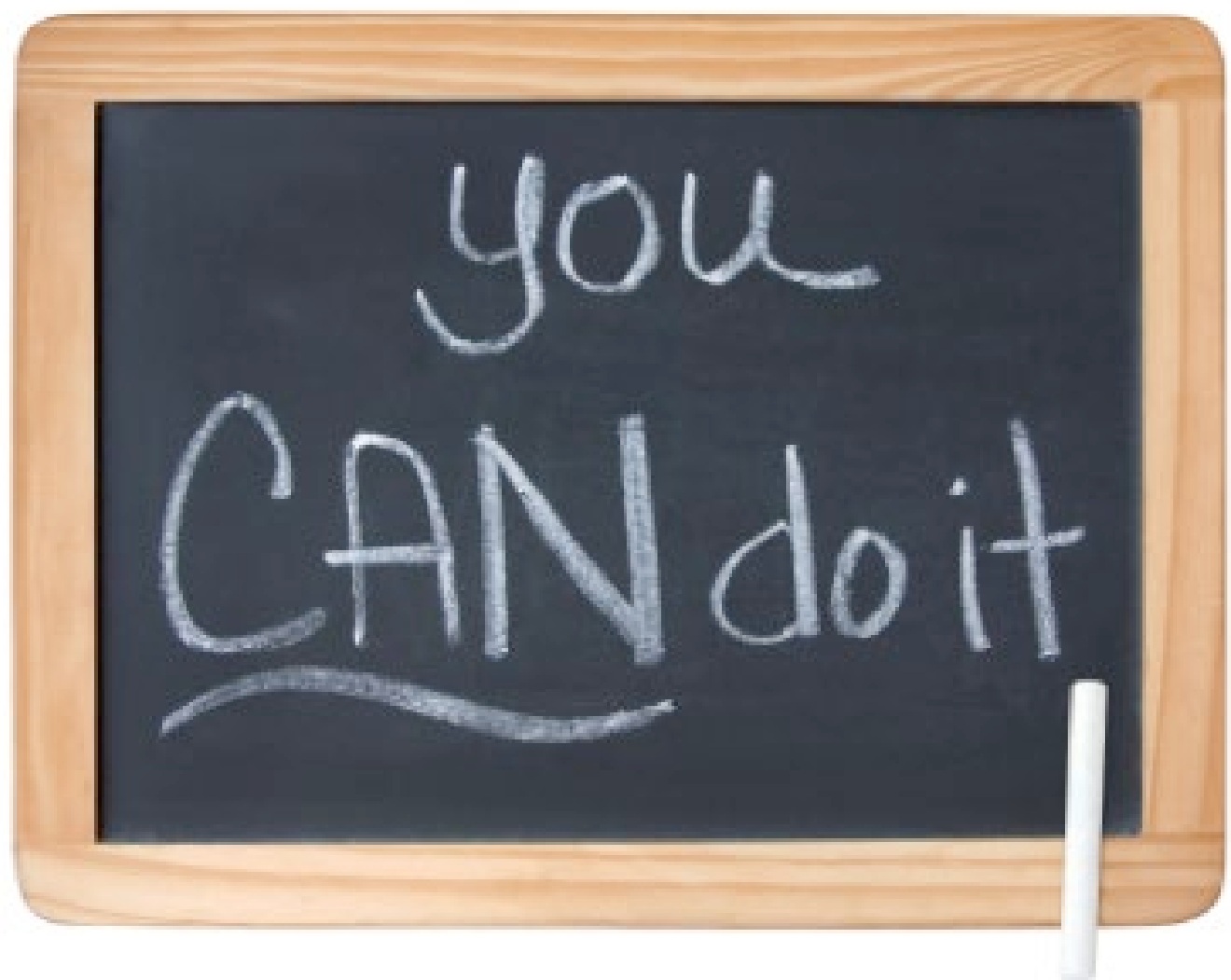
Big Picture Budget Considerations

- Budget based on L'Anse Creuse strategic plan
- Wage and benefit increases estimated, due to active negotiations and economic conditions.
- State funding not enough to cover infrastructure/capital improvements, large technology needs and safety and security...Different times different needs!
 - L'Anse Creuse hasn't had a bond in 19 years. We have a bond proposal on the ballot to fund these critical needs

Moral of the Story

- Build trust with stakeholders. Be honest even though it may not be what they want to hear.
 - Provide alternative options
 - Ask yourself is it right for kids
- Be transparent and provide visuals in simple terms so folks can understand.
- Allow folks to ask questions to help them understand.
- Most importantly... Don't be afraid to have the difficult conversations. If they trust you they will support you!

Remember!.....





QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!

Kathy Konon, CPA, CGMA
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
kononka@lc-ps.org
586-783-6300 Ext. 1212