

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

February 28, 2023

SUBJECT:

Consideration on the 30-Minute Unencumbered Time Requirement

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Legislation (S.946) passed in Spring 2022 requires 30 minutes of unencumbered, free-of-duty, time for full-time kindergarten through 5th grade teachers and for elementary, middle, and high teachers who have a special education class for more than 20% of the school day with students who are removed from the general education setting. School districts cannot offer additional compensation in lieu of unencumbered time. This change takes effect in the 2023 – 2024 school year.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Current staffing levels at elementary schools prevent the District from complying with the requirements of this legislation. The Administration has determined a need for one or two aide-level positions, per school, depending on a school's enrollment. The Administration proposes allocating schools with less than 350 students in grades kindergarten through five with one position and all other elementary schools with a second position, for a total of 38 FTE. One position at each school would serve as a safety monitor. The estimated cost of salary and fringe is \$1,330,000.

The combination of the 2023 – 2024 budget approval date, currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, and shortened summer/early 2023 – 2024 start date for students would not allow sufficient time to advertise and fill positions prior to the start of the school year. While not the norm, the Board has provided advance approval on certain time-sensitive budget items in past years. The Administration requests advance approval on this budget item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve creation of 38 aide-level positions to meet the new 30-minute unencumbered time requirement, in advance of the final budget approval for 2023 – 2024

PREPARED BY:

M. O. Traxler III
Jennifer Hart
Amy Edwards