

TaxWatch Recommendations Q1 2018-19

SMART Program Quarterly Report Review for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2018

SECTION 1 --- TECHNOLOGY SBBC SCHOOLS

RECOMMENDATION 1: **TaxWatch recommends that the Chief Information Officer provide an explanation for the apparent delay in starting the 7 new technology projects above.**

Load Balancing Systems - This project was Complete as of 9/30/18. I&T is requesting that the remaining \$15,000 be realigned to the UPS/Support for aging batteries listed below.

Midrange System Upgrade - This project was In-Process as of 9/30/18. Additional funding will be used in Q2 while Information & Technology (I&T) continues with the completion of this project.

SCCM Server Hard Drives - I&T is requesting that the \$125,000 budgeted for this project be moved to the Server Blade Growth project listed below as there is a greater demand due to the aging of the equipment currently in use.

Server Blade Growth - The start of this project is pending ITB and Board Approval processes. Board Item is scheduled for the 2/20/2019 Board Agenda. In an effort not to interrupt schools processes, this implementation is planned to start and complete during Q1 of FY19/20. (During Summer when schools are closed).

Network Security/Capacity Upgrades -This project impacts Internet Access for digital instruction. This implementation is planned to start and complete during Q1 of FY19/20. (During Summer when schools are closed).

Enterprise Back-up - Project start date pending completion of RFP and Board Approval processes. Implementation is planned to start during Q1 of FY19/20. (During Summer when schools are closed).

UPS/Support for aging batteries - Evaluation still in process to develop a priority timeline to Replace UPS devices and computer batteries based critical equipment (Example – Security devices). This project would start towards the end of Quarter 4 of FY18/19.

RECOMMENDATION 2: **TaxWatch recommends that, beginning with the Q2 2018-19 Bond Oversight Committee Report, the Chief Information Officer begin reporting the status of these 7 new technology projects.**

TaxWatch recommends that, beginning with the Q4 2017-18 Bond Oversight Committee Report, the District begin reporting the status of these 8 new technology projects.

Information & Technology will provide status for all open to include timelines and projected completion dates.

SECTION 2 --- TECHNOLOGY CHARTER SCHOOLS

N/A

SECTION 3 --- MUSIC & ART EQUIPMENT

N/A

SECTION 4 --- ATHLETICS

N/A

SECTION 5 --- FACILITIES

RECOMMENDATION 3: **TaxWatch recommends that the Task Assigned Executive Director, Capital Programs, provide an explanation why there are no projects flagged for budget issues.**

- The reporting team inadvertently overlooked adding budget flags to relevant spotlights for the quarter ending September 30, 2018. There were five (5) projects in the reporting quarter that received additional funding and should have been flagged accordingly on the School Spotlights. Notwithstanding the oversight to note a "B" Budget flag, the BOC report did correctly report and reference the additional funding as a separate line item in the scope section of each project spotlight. Below please find a list of the schools that received Board approval for additional funding.
 - o Charles W Flanagan High School – Additional funding of \$6,793,361 approved by the Board on 9/5/2018
 - o Griffin Elementary School – Additional funding of \$1,868,208 approved by the Board on 7/24/2018
 - o Palm Cove Elementary School – Additional funding of \$1,318,658 approved by the Board on 9/5/2018
 - o Quiet Waters Elementary School – Additional funding of \$1,868,208 approved by the Board on 7/24/2018
 - o Silver Trail Middle School – Additional funding of \$1,781,150 approved by the Board on 7/24/2018

- Moving forward, the SMART team will include flags for any projects that require additional funding that exceeds the amount budgeted. The team also looks forward to working collaboratively with Tax Watch and the BOC to clarify the methodology for applying both schedule and budget flags to projects moving forward.

RECOMMENDATION 4: TaxWatch recommends that the Task Assigned Executive Director, Capital Programs, provide an explanation of:

- **why there are no Single Point of Entry projects flagged for budget issues;**
- **why the Single Point of Entry projects are no longer identified on the “School Spotlights”;** and
- **the status of the 68 active Single Point of Entry projects compared to their planned completion dates and budgets.**
- There was a determination made by the District to remove Single Point of Entry projects from the School Spotlights to remain consistent with the ADEFP and for safety reasons. The SMART reporting team regrettably neglected to explain that change in reporting protocol in the BOC report.
- For future BOC reports, a separate document will be created as a means of providing the status of schools with SPE projects actively underway. The budget and schedule information will be included but the names of schools will be replaced with a “reference number” to maintain confidentiality for safety purposes.

SECTION 6 --- BUDGET ACTIVITY

RECOMMENDATION 5: TaxWatch recommends that, beginning with the Q2 2018-19 Report, the Chief Financial Officer include an updated assessment of risk and its potential impact on project budgets.

Staff agrees with this recommendation. Finance and Facilities staff will work together with the District’s cost and controls consultant (Atkins) to identify systemic risks and assess the impact to the project budget and program reserves. We will include such an assessment beginning in Q2 2018-19.

SECTION 7 --- SUPPLIER DIVERSITY OUTREACH

N/A

SECTION 8 --- COMMUNICATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 6: TaxWatch recommends that the District provide the Bond Oversight Committee its proposed messaging strategy for informing the taxpayers of the additional delays in completing the planned facilities renovation projects.

The SMART communications team is actively developing materials to inform parents, staff and faculty of the changes in the projects schedule, if any along with updates on the progress at their community schools.

