



Frequently Asked Questions

Updated February 11, 2010

INTRODUCTION

The Envision 20/20+ Commission work is off and running. Starting with the January Steering Committee meeting, the February Commission meeting, and questions sent afterward, more than 90 questions have been submitted.

To keep the volume of questions and answers to a reasonable level, we have merged some similar questions and put a priority on answering those that are of broad interest to the whole group and questions requiring a manageable amount of data research.

Thanks to John Voigt and other BCSC staff members for assembling this information so quickly. It was a big task, but these answers ~ along with the information presented at the recent meetings ~ definitely provide a solid base to inform our future discussions.

Marilyn Shank
Envision 20/20+ Facilitator

Responses listed in italics and/or with the text "Response In Process" are currently being developed or having data collected, as appropriate.

Responses in bold high-lighted text are updated information from the last posting.

- 1) What should Commission members do between now and the March Meeting?
 - a) Marilyn suggests Commission members:
 - i) Study the information provided to date and on the BCSC EnVision website;
 - ii) Work to promote participation in the EnVision process by the community as a whole;
 - iii) Listen to what you might be hearing about the EnVision effort out in the community.

- 2) Looking at Attachment C, can these positions (elementary counselors, CLC Teachers...) be contracted out to avoid health/pension costs?
 - a) These positions can be contracted, and on occasion BCSC has contracted for Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy, but hourly costs have typically proven to not be cost effective in the long term.

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3) Should we further expand our transportation boundaries? Would others be willing to share in this sacrifice?

a) BCSC is currently investigating this concept. Transportation is currently provided to students who live one mile or more from their school (actual walking distance, not “as the crow flies”) or closer if there is not a safe route between their home and school.

4) Can we get comparative data that will compare BCSC’s cost per student, average class size, teacher pay, state funding vs. local funding, and other useful stats to that of other local school corporations?

a) This data can be found on the Indiana Department of Education website at this location - <http://www.doe.in.gov/data/> - BCSC’s district code is 3305, and the site includes a search engine to allow comparative data to be developed.

5) In regards to (the February 2, 2010 Baseline Information Presentation Attachment C, what is mandated by the state?

a) Listed below are programs from “Attachment C” with notations indicating programs required by the State of Indiana. There are other programs not listed but still required by state/federal law. Go to <http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title20/ar30/ch5.html> for the very limited curricular subjects required by the State of Indiana. Other requirements for curriculum, staff, and programs are delineated in state and federal law and administrative code, which can be found on the State of Indiana website - <http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title20/index.html> .

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| i) Full Day Kindergarten - No; | xviii) School Psychologists - Yes; |
| ii) Kindergarten - Must be provided, no mandatory attendance; | xix) Media Specialists - No; |
| iii) Harris Academy - No; | xx) ENL Staff - Yes; |
| iv) High Ability - Yes; | xxi) CLC - No; |
| v) Special Education - Yes; | xxii) Assistant Principals - No; |
| vi) OT/PT - Yes; | xxiii) Principals - Yes; |
| vii) Athletics - No; | xxiv) Athletic Directors - No; |
| viii) Band and Choir - The state has music standards, but a marching band and show choir, for example, are not required; | xxv) Deans - No; |
| ix) Student Council - No; | xxvi) Title I Aides - No; |
| x) Yearbook - No; | xxvii) Special Ed Aides - Often; |
| xi) RtI - Yes; | xxviii) Nurses - There are state requirements for healthcare provision; |
| xii) School Improvement Teams - Yes; | xxix) Custodial/Maintenance - No; |
| xiii) Academic Teams - No; | xxx) Security - No; |
| xiv) Newspaper - No; | xxxi) Superintendent - Yes; |
| xv) Theater - No; | xxxii) Other Central Office Administrators - No; |
| xvi) Counselors - No at ES, Yes at MS/HS; | xxxiii) Technology Staff - No; |
| xvii) Social Workers - No; | xxxiv) Food Service - No; |
| | xxxv) Data Analyst - No. |

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- 6) If the property tax remains capped, is it possible to charge a “tuition” (beyond book fees) based on household income or tax brackets? Is there a law against this?
- a) Current statute prohibits the charging of tuition to students whose parents reside within the district.
- 7) How many students utilize specific programs? For example, how many kilns are there between the high school and the Senior Academy? I’ve been told there are kilns in both locations.
- a) Student program utilization rates change depending upon student scheduling, which will not be completed until the end of the current school year.
- b) With regard to kilns, there are no art rooms in the Senior Academy and therefore no kilns. The four art classrooms in the main Brownsburg High School facility are served by one large kiln, relocated from the old art rooms, and three smaller new kilns that were installed when the three-dimensional art instruction room was constructed in 2005.
- 8) What percent of employees receive full benefits?
- a) Currently, 60% of all BCSC employees elect full benefits coverage, including medical, dental, and vision coverage.
- 9) Is there a potential for educational opportunities through media sources? For example, can Chinese be taught in one classroom and televised at other schools?
- a) Yes. For example, the remote presentation of instruction through media resources has been utilized at BCSC for world language classes.
- 10) At what point will the quality of education change if we make more reductions? How long do you think it will take before your quality educators go elsewhere?
- a) This topic could be discussed in an upcoming Commission meeting.

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11) What can we take away that will not keep students from graduating?

a) Beginning with students who entered high school in school year 2007-2008, the Core 40 course and credit requirements accepted in the State of Indiana.

i) The State-defined Core 40 diploma requires 40 credit hours in the following areas:

- (1) 8 credits of English/Language Arts
- (2) 6 credits of mathematics
- (3) 6 credits of science
- (4) 6 credits of social studies
- (5) 5 credits of directed electives (world languages, fine arts, career-technical)
- (6) 2 credits of Physical Education;
- (7) 1 credit of Health and Wellness
- (8) 6 credits of Electives.

ii) BCSC requires 1 credit of Speech and 2 additional credits of electives, for a total of 43 credits, to achieve the Core 40 diploma.

iii) The State also requires that a Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma be offered, the requirements of which include:

- (1) 8 credits of English/Language Arts
- (2) 8 credits of mathematics
- (3) 6 credits of science
- (4) 6 credits of social studies
- (5) 6 to 8 world language credits
- (6) 2 fine arts credits
- (7) 2 physical education credits
- (8) 1 health credit
- (9) 4 AP credits or dual college credits or SAT 1200+ or ACT26+

b) For additional information refer to the Brownsburg HS Course Selection Handbook at <http://staffweb.brownsburg.k12.in.us/~bhsGuidance/20102011Coursebook.pdf>.

12) Do administrators pay \$1.00 for benefits? If not, how much do they pay?

a) This topic has recently been covered on the BCSC "Heard it through the Grapevine" blog at this location - <http://bulldogblog-donna.blogspot.com/> . Administrators pay anywhere between \$1.00 and \$1,644.00 annually, depending upon the plan they elect to participate in.

13) Why were seniors provided with laptops?

a) This FAQ was provided info to parents of seniors as the Senior Academy was opening this past fall: <http://www.brownsburg.k12.in.us/senioracademy/FAQ7-2-09.pdf>

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- 14) Is it true that administrators were given several thousand dollar raises last year?
- a) (From the blog) Administrators have not received a pay raise since June, 2008, 18 months ago. For the 2009-2010 school year, pay rates for all administrative staff (including the superintendent), support staff and teachers at the top of the salary schedule were frozen at the 2008 level.
- 15) What are the steps for teacher salaries?**
- a) The steps are based upon years of experience and college degree, and are detailed in the Master Contract which has been posted to the EnVision website.
- 16) Where do administrators fall on the general fund graph? What percentage of the general fund do their incomes come to?**
- a) Administrators are budgeted in several categories, depending upon their job description. Some would be included in the technology salaries that come out of the Capital Projects Fund, while others are included in whole or in part within the Transportation, Food Service, or other funds as applicable. Refer to the Staff Distribution Chart posted under "General Information".
- 17) What is the percent of the total workforce being reduced for 2010?
- a) The exact number of workforce reduction in 2010 is dependent on a variety of factors, including student scheduling, number of staff retiring or leaving voluntarily, and other possible cost reduction measures. Other cost reduction measures are being considered first before reducing staff.
- 18) Does a school nurse have to be an RN? Are there 3rd party options?
- a) No, registered nurses in schools are not required by statute. There are third party options available.
- 19) Has the Board adopted the proposed 2010 budget amendment?
- a) Not as of February 5, 2010.
- 20) Where is the visioning? When will we develop a vision of the future education in Brownsburg?
- a) At Commission Meeting No. 2, the "visioning" must begin. While an understanding of the magnitude of the financial challenge is important, the question is on target - the answer to this challenge will be found in identifying what the community believes is important in educating students now and into the future.

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- 21) Have we done any trend and demographic analysis to better understand our long term capital facility needs?
- a) The last comprehensive capital planning effort was completed in 2006, also using a community process. At that time the only facility need identified as necessary to meet enrollment growth, beyond those construction projects completed through 2009, was an additional elementary school to be occupied in 2013. Enrollment growth has slowed dramatically in pace with the economy, and the need and associated occupancy date for that building has pushed out well beyond 2013.
- 22) What's been planned for stimulus replacement?
- a) Wherever possible, BCSC has utilized stimulus funds in locations where annual review of program needs are possible.
- 23) Is it really 100% of property tax TIF revenue? I think it's the increment above the base year the TIF was established.
- a) Yes, any property existing within a TIF district at the time of the TIF determination is not included in the assessed value of the TIF district.
- 24) Did you scan demographics for race and is the commission representative?
- a) The question is valid. The demographics of the group from a racial perspective are not reflective of the community and efforts are underway to correct that imbalance.
- 25) What is the interest revenue coming from? (As listed in the GF shortfall sheet \$555,955) Does the school have bank accounts or loans from which they collect that much?
- a) Interest funds are generated from cash balance deposits and short-term investments.
- 26) What happened to the cash balances in previous years? I understand \$3M was put in the rainy day fund last year, but what happened to the other surpluses from years past? Were they factored into the budget for the next year?
- a) The \$3,000,000 in the Rainy Day Fund came in large measure from cost reduction efforts made in 2009, such as deferred projects, reductions in staff overtime, etc.
- 27) Is it really necessary to build up a cash balance in this economy? What is it used for? This is not a traded company or for-profit, so why the need for a large cash balance account?
- a) A cash balance is required as an operating balance.

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28) When I look at the staff of the schools, I see a young staff. How is it that Mr. Ward said that you expect 10-12 retirements every year, and then be surprised with only one this last year?

- a) The retirement projection is traditionally based upon historical data from previous years and a comprehensive understanding of the number of staff at various age levels. It appears the faltering economy and associated fall in personal retirement investment value has slowed the number of individuals that, under different circumstances, would otherwise have retired this year. There are currently 48 eligible retirees in our teachers and administrators.

29) Numbers please for staff positions, specifically Athletic Directors (pay seems very high-how many are there and how many are needed), Deans, Asst Principals, Principals, District Level Administrators (pay also seems very high here), Teachers in El, Mid, and Hi levels, High school counselors, etc

- a) A Staffing Distribution Chart has been posted under "General Information" on the EnVision website, indicating how many positions are located in each building, position, etc. In general the cost of fringes (insurance, retirement, Social Security, etc.) adds approximately 20% to the base salary of each employee.

30) How many students are enrolled at each level?

- a) The Official 2009 -2010 Average Daily Membership Enrollment chart has been posted under "General Information" on the EnVision website, indicating the numbers of students in each grade level and school. Refer to Glossary for definition of ADM.

31) What is the "Stimulus Package" listed as the last item in the 09 Cost Reduction tally at \$814,000?

- a) The "stimulus package" referred to in the tally reflects federal funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that were channeled from the federal government to the individual states. Like many states, Indiana chose to utilize those funds to take the place of state funds that, although previously intended to fund public education, turned out to be unavailable due to shortfalls in state revenues.

32) The cost of wages for the transportation dept for field trips is listed separately, but the fuel cost was not. Was it a significant amount of the total that is listed?

- a) The primary focus of the transportation costs identified in Attachment C was staff wages and benefits. The cost of fuel was shown on one of the main presentation slides, but not field trip fuel specifically.

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33) In Transportation expenditures, why is there a listing for administration AND clerical, payroll, and claims staff? Is there some redundancy here? Isn't the payroll for transportation handled at CO like all other payrolls?

- a) While physically payroll and similar functions are in fact conducted within the Central Office, the staff and equipment costs for such functions have been prorated and charged to various funds where possible to shed load from the General Fund to other funds that may be less impacted by funding challenges. A similar condition exists in other departments and areas, such as charging food services for a portion of the costs associated with heating, cooling and operating the kitchens, etc.

34) In the Capital Projects fund, the tech staff is listed as earning more than \$1,200,000. How many tech staff members are there? How many hours do they work? And where?

- a) Technological Services Staffing counts and assignments are detailed in the Staff Distribution Chart posted under "General Information" on the EnVision website. Duties of specific tech staff are detailed in the Job Descriptions and summarized below:

- i) Data - Responsible for software support, state reports, PowerSchool, cafeteria, and transportation data;

- ii) Network/AV - responsible for corporation-wide network maintenance, BCSC web page maintenance, BCSC-TV station and programming, video systems within classrooms and video surveillance equipment maintenance;

- iii) Desktop - Responsible for user assistance in classrooms and offices, assigned to multiple buildings;

- iv) Clerical Assistant - Works with Director part time (shared with curriculum) as well as purchasing, shipping, and receiving for Technological Services, and as technical help desk;

- v) Trainer - Work with teachers in the classroom to implement the technology.

- b) The technology staff that is paid from the Capital Projects Fund includes both school-year and year-round staff. The \$1.2 million dollars noted for this group includes ALL employment costs of that group. The total cost of an employee = salary + corporation benefit contributions for medical, dental and vision insurance + fringes (social security, workers compensation, life insurance, Teacher Retirement or Public Employee Retirement, voluntary retirement savings contributions (403b), and long term disability). In general, the cost of fringes averages 20% of the base salary.

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35) I would like to know the pay scale for the teachers. I am surprised at the "potential cost" slide, that you list the base salary, but then list the other costs that are usually taken out of an employee's paycheck as if they are paid on top of the salary. Is this so? How much do teachers pay for their Insurance package, and is that taken out of their checks? Is this the same policy applied to the administration throughout the district? I'm assuming by "Potential cost of an Employee" that it would apply to all employees of the district?

a) The Master Contract has been posted under "General Information" on the EnVision website.

b) The "potential cost of an employee" slide in the February 2, 2010 presentation was intended to demonstrate the total cost of an employee is broader than simply the salary. There are taxes deducted from the employee's pay, but also required taxes or costs the employer pays (Social Security employer match and Teacher Retirement Fund participation as examples). There are also "voluntary" benefit costs elected and paid by the employer (Public Employee Retirement Fund, 403(b) match, as examples). This is true of any employer, not just schools. The example provided in the presentation is generally true of any employee at any employer, depending of course on the benefits offered and taken.

36) What is "RTI"?

a) Response To Intervention is BCSC's response to the mandated requirement to provide intervention to "at risk students" in language arts, math, and behavior.

37) Have all 2009 funds been received?

a) There will be no changes to the 2009 revenue. Some property taxes due in 2009 may be paid in 2010, but those late payments will be credited as 2010 payments.

38) What is the contract term for a typical teacher and other contracted staff?

a) The Master Contract is negotiated with the BCTA, and can have a one year or longer term. State law mandates a "status quo" contract in the event of an impasse, effectively rolling over the current contract.

39) What is "RIF"?

a) Reduction In Force is a process defined in Board of School Trustees policy, and is essentially staff reductions based upon certification and seniority.

40) Would teachers be willing to accept a temporary reduction in pay?

a) All adjustments to the contract require negotiations between the Board of School Trustees and the Brownsburg Classroom Teachers Association, and the approval of both parties.

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- 41) What influence does a local district have over the teaching master contract?
- Unlike some states, the master contract is a local issue.
- 42) When/how does the debt service burden decline over time?
- Little decline is expected in the Debt Service fund for seven to ten years until several active bond issues begin to pay out. In the period 2017 to 2020, the Debt Service will gradually decline providing no additional debt is undertaken.
- 43) Can additional funds be procured beyond the state support and local property taxes?
- The process being referred to is legal in Indiana and is referred to as a “referendum”. This option should be investigated, but takes no higher or lower precedence than any other option. It should also be pointed out that under Indiana Statute an Operating Referendum, the type of referendum that is used to provide additional operating funds to a school district, is only effective for seven years. At the end of the seven year period, another referendum must be passed by the community or the funding associated with the initial referendum stops.
- 44) What is the breakdown of reductions by employee group?**
- The breakdown of reductions by employee group is included in the initial reduction spreadsheets provided at the initial meeting (see “Attachment A” and “Attachment B” from the February 2, 2010 presentation).**
- 45) Are reductions being focused in the right areas, including “upper level classified staff”?
- The parameter set by the Board has been to distribute staff reductions as fairly as possible while maintaining the overall quality of the educational program.
- 46) Can a glossary of terms and acronyms be provided?**
- A Glossary of Terms and Acronyms is posted on the EnVision website under General Information.**
- 47) Are revenue sources other than “user fees” or “taxes” available to Indiana public schools (alternative business risk opportunities, partnering with economic development, etc.)?
- Long term, yes. Current reductions are necessary but can’t be the only solution. BCSC currently rents out undeveloped ground for farming purposes, leases ground to cell tower providers, rents two small homes, and operates an employee healthcare clinic, all with the intent to generate revenue and/or reduce expenses.

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- 48) Is it possible to utilize “students” as a resource?
- a) Not as a cost savings measure.
- 49) Are there under-utilized classrooms or other resources that would reduce costs without impacting program?
- a) The total system cost must be considered, but there are non-classroom functions that can be “combined/collapsed” to achieve additional capacity. BCSC has an advantage in that its facilities are in close proximity.
- 50) Do “pay to play, pay to ride, pay to _____” programs need to be considered?
- a) Yes, or at least investigated to determine impact, etc.
- 51) Can the community join with its schools to provide the necessary programs (partnering with seniors, etc.)? Are there models elsewhere? Volunteerism? Community resources?
- a) Yes, community partners are extremely important. BCSC has a strong volunteer program that can should be expanded.
- 52) If 86% of the properties in the BCSC district are residential, what is the (other 14%)?
- a) The remaining 14% of property in the BCSC district not classified as “residential” is classified as commercial, industrial, agriculture, etc. property that also pays property taxes but has a different property tax circuit breaker cap. In this issue it is also necessary to understand:
 - i) TIF (“Tax Increment Finance”) Districts (property taxes are charged at the same rate as the overall community but revenues are restricted for use to pay for public infrastructure, etc. within the TIF District);
 - ii) Tax Abatement is a delay in the full implementation of the tax rate on a particular property, generally over a period of ten years. Over time these properties should generate their full share of property taxes.
 - iii) It is also necessary to understand the impact of property assessment in relationship to the tax rate.

(1) $\text{Assessed Value}/100 \times \text{Property Tax Rate} = \text{Property Tax Levy (or amount owed)}$
- 53) What are the definitions of general administrative and support staff job titles, responsibilities, actions, and their impact on the classroom?
- a) Job descriptions are available through the EnVision website.

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54) What are the administrative and support staff counts at the various buildings and grade levels?

a) This question is addressed under Question 29.

55) Total administration versus classroom staff versus support staff?

a) This question is addressed under Question 29.

56) Please provide an additional breakdown in the Food Service Fund, including revenues and expenditures.

a) A Food Service Revenue & Expenditures Chart has been posted under “General Information” on the EnVision website, indicating Food Service financial and meal count information.

57) Provide an additional breakdown on Transportation Fund, including revenues and expenditures.

a) A Transportation Revenue & Expenditures Chart has been posted under “General Information” on the EnVision website.

58) Please provide data on Transportation utilization (Who actually rides versus who could ride the bus, etc.).

a) Currently approximately 5,884 students are eligible to ride a school bus to school, out of a total of 7,279 enrolled students (81%). Actual ridership averages 4,500 students per day (77% of eligible students, 62% of all students). Ridership varies through the year for reasons such as increasing numbers of student drivers and during difficult weather conditions.

59) In future discussions, please discuss the qualitative aspects of education in Brownsburg, not simply the financial and logistical details.

a) The comments of the Commission as a whole would appear to support the concept that no one will be happy with a simple general reduction in all areas of the district resulting in a decline in the quality of the program provided. While an understanding of the magnitude of the issue and the associated technicalities is important, the discussion must soon turn to what programs are most important and make the best, biggest, most positive impact on the students and the community.

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- 60) I know individual teachers and maybe even individual schools have applied for grants. Is it possible for the whole corporation to apply for grants to help fund certain items on the budget?
- BCSC employs a grant writer on staff. The staff as a whole is also seeking grants, and the Brownsburg Education Foundation has provided grant revenues to teachers and students totaling over \$1 million to date. (Check out Donors Choose www.donorschoose.org).
- 61) Are there any plans for raising revenue rather than simply reducing costs, and can students be involved in this effort?
- BCSC has employed a coordinator for non-traditional revenue, responsible for identifying new revenue sources for the district. She has been focused in the area of grants and new federal dollars.
- 62) Is it possible to offer naming rights to schools/fields as a revenue source?
- Yes, this issue is under consideration.
- 63) Is it possible to have uniform sponsors for athletics or selling ads on buses for added revenue?
- Sponsorships for athletics uniforms are permitted, but the placement of logos or other advertising on the uniform is prohibited under current Indiana High School Athletic Association rules.
 - Advertisements on school buses are prohibited under current Indiana regulations.
 - Other sponsorship or similar revenue generation approaches could be investigated further as to their legality and viability.
- 64) Please provide additional information on Transportation management and Food service management-how many managers at locations-could we share mgmt-Cardinal/Delaware or Brown/Eagle, etc?
- Transportation is currently staffed with one director that oversees a 100+ vehicle fleet, including drivers, mechanics, and clerical staff. The Transportation Department is responsible for all routing and scheduling requirements associated with all school bus transportation.
 - Food Service is currently staffed with one director overseeing all district food service operations, and a total of eight kitchens. Each kitchen has a local manager responsible for the operation of that kitchen. Cardinal and Delaware Trail share a common kitchen staffed with a single manager and kitchen staff.
- 65) Can food service be contracted out at lower costs?
- Food services can be contracted out. BCSC is investigating the recovery of utility and administrative costs under the existing organization. Food service could also be considered a revenue source if restaurant level pricing was charged.

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- 66) Could District Level administrative and support staff be integrated into a school/schools-shut down office and utilize school administrative staff?
- a) No. The functions of district level administration and the functions of building level administration are different in an educational institution. Refer to job descriptions for more detail.
- 67) Debt Service - what exactly is it for and can we refinance or extend for longer terms to weather budget storms?
- a) The Debt Service fund is the accounting fund from which the payments on building construction are paid (the mortgage account in personal terms). There are several bond issues (or mortgages) currently outstanding, and the district has refinanced bond issues when terms and conditions allow such refinancing to occur.
- 68) Does Brownsburg charge electrical fees to employees who have microwaves or refrigerators in their classrooms?
- a) The district has not charged staff for such items, rather has requested staff remove such items to reduce utility costs.
- 69) After last night, I understand our main goal is to determine what needs to be done financially in order for the school to continue. Is this correct?
- a) No, the purpose of the EnVision Commission is larger than simply the mathematics needed to meet current financial constraints. Beginning with Commission Meeting No. 2 the Commission needs to expand its discussion to the programs and efforts that it expects the district to provide to its students.
- 70) Why haven't we sent letter/emails to the parents of Brownsburg Schools explaining the situation?
- a) Over the past year information regarding the increasingly challenging financial conditions BCSC is operating in has been issued through a variety of sources, most of which are archived on the BCSC website. The latest, and perhaps most dramatic, impact only became known on December 23, 2009 when the State announced additional, significant, and immediate financial reductions.
- 71) Is it ridiculous to consider parents and the community would step up to donate? Is this a possibility?
- a) Anything is a possibility and nothing is ridiculous. However, any option must be considered in the context of the total community and the long-term sustainability of that option. The Commission should expect the approaching financial constraints to be a long-term condition, not a short-term situation.

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72) Could we start giving our teachers raises based on performance?

- a) Currently the Master Agreement for teaching staff stipulates that compensation be based upon years of experience and degree level (Bachelors degree, Masters degree, etc.). Any change to this compensation system must be negotiated between and agreed to by both the Board of School Trustees and the Brownsburg Classroom Teachers Association. There is some discussion, however, at the federal level of moving teaching compensation to a performance-based structure in school corporations receiving federal funding.

73) How much does a new bus cost?

- a) The most recent data for a new bus value is \$114,144.00 minus \$15,000 trade-in value for an old bus.

74) How is the decision made to buy a new bus? Age? Mileage? Repair costs?

- a) Statutes require that buses be at least 12 years old before replacement. Buses are rotated on different routes so that each traded bus has between 110,000 and 130,000 miles. Exceptions are made when a bus has need for serious body or engine repairs, which may cause that bus to be moved forward in the trade rotation.

75) What are the old buses worth when they are sold/traded?

- a) The trade price for the most recent bus purchase was \$15,000.

76) How much could be saved by using the buses one more year?

- a) Approximately \$100,000 per bus less repair costs that might be incurred for a 13 year old bus.

77) Why does BCSC employ 3 police officers?

- a) This question has recently been addressed on the BCSC website at <http://bulldogblog-donna.blogspot.com/2010/01/why-does-school-corporation-need-its.html>

78) What do BCSC Police do, and why had BCSC planned to hire a fourth officer?

- a) The job descriptions for all BCSC staff have been posted to the EnVision website. The fourth officer was intended to provide coverage for the six elementary schools. Instead, the current three officers have extended their coverage over the six elementary schools, two middle schools, the high school, Harris Academy, and other BCSC facilities.

79) What is the expense labeled "security"?

- a) Security costs are the total of wages and benefits for Security staff as paid for 2009.

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80) What is the role of a counselor at elementary, middle, and high school levels?

- a) The job descriptions for all BCSC staff have been posted to the EnVision website.

81) How many FDK aides are there?

- a) BCSC currently employs four Full Day Kindergarten aides, one in each of the Title I elementary schools. None of the FDK aides are paid through the General Fund, but rather through Title I grant dollars.**

82) What is the ratio of aides to teachers and how is this ratio established?

- a) Classroom aides have been assigned in the past to Kindergarten and first grade when class sized reached 24 students. In second and third grade the threshold was 26 students. Thresholds will be increased for the 2010-2011 school year.

83) What are the costs associated with serving breakfast in the schools?

- a) *Response in process.*

84) Why are Kindergarten students bussed now? How many buses could be eliminated by cutting kindergarten service?

- a) Kindergarten bus service provided with the same buses and routes as elementary bus service. Eliminating Kindergarten bus service would not likely reduce the number of buses or routes unless there were significant numbers of Kindergarten students in a particular area or neighborhood.

85) How many acres of undeveloped land does BCSC own and how many acres are leased to farmers?

- a) BCSC currently owns undeveloped land in the following locations/amounts:
 - i) 100 acres at CR 700 N and CR 900 E - purchased for future school development, currently leased for farming purposes;
 - ii) 61 acres along Bulldog Way between Airport Road and US 136 - planned for future school development, currently leased for farming purposes;
 - iii) There are other minor areas of undeveloped land in and around existing school buildings, totaling in aggregate less than five acres, currently maintained as open turf space (field opposite West Middle School, miscellaneous vacant lots adjacent to Brown Elementary School).

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Updated February 11, 2010

86) Does BCSC pay property taxes?

- a) BCSC pays property taxes on ground that is not used for educational purposes which includes two homes on College Avenue, the farmed property between Reagan and East Middle School and the 100 acres referenced in question 85. Current assessment rules require schools to pay property taxes on real property not used for school purposes, from which rental income is received.

87) Have you requested cost saving/revenue generating ideas from each employee for their area of expertise within BCSC?

- a) Since October of 2008 BCSC staff in all areas have submitted hundreds of cost saving ideas, many of which have been successfully implemented.

88) Can the teachers contract be published somewhere?

- a) **Yes, the agreement is a public record document and is now posted under “General Information”.**