

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

**SPEARFISH
SCHOOL DISTRICT 40-2**

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

November 12, 2009

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st floor
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: Black Hills Power proposed rate increase

Members of the Public Utilities Commission:

I am writing out of concern for the proposed rate increase you have received from Black Hills Power. Our school district's last full-year cost for services provided by BHP was \$202,000, a significant part of our operational budget. An increase of 26.6% would cost our school district an additional \$53,700 a year, or about 1.5 FTE teaching positions. For a school district that has already been forced to cut over \$2 million from its operating budget over the past decade, this request will cost us additional programs, staffing and opportunities for our students. I have included a list of the cuts made here in Spearfish to illustrate just how difficult and drastic those cuts have been. And as you consider the impact on our schools here in Spearfish, understand that we are just one of many school districts that will be impacted, and likely be forced to cut educational opportunities for South Dakota students. Including Spearfish and five neighboring school districts, the annual cost to operating budgets surpasses \$212,000.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Dave Peters
Superintendent

BUDGET REDUCTION INFORMATION - SPEARFISH SCHOOLS, 1999-2005

SPEARFISH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Staff Reductions

Cut 6 regular teaching positions resulting in average class size increases from 19 to 25+ in K-5

.5 Music teacher

.5 Physical Education teacher

Two librarians (replaced with an aide)

Classified staff reductions (4 FTE)

Facilities

Closed Central School

Replaced custodial staff at West with contract service

Programs eliminated/reduced

Gifted and talented program/teacher

Swimming program

Parallel block scheduling and planning time

Staff development

Future considerations

Further increase class size

Planned closure of East Elementary '24 building/maybe '61 building

Moving grade 5 to Middle School or West with addition there

Grades 3-4 to West Elementary (requires construction)

Pre-school/Kindergarten to East '61 building

SPEARFISH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Staff reductions/Class size

7 teaching positions eliminated

Assistant Principal replaced with part-time Dean of Students

2 teacher aides

14 coaching positions/travel/supplies

Core classes at 30-student average

Programs eliminated or reduced

Foreign language

Home economics

Conflict resolution/Peer mediation

Industrial technology

Alternative Ed

Creative Expressions (drama, art, writing, etc.)

Library

Band lessons

Staff Development

All 6th grade activities

Future considerations

Staff cuts/class size increases

Loss of exploratory programs

Athletics and activities

Middle School concept

Alternative Education

SPEARFISH HIGH SCHOOL

Staff Reductions/Class Size

Cut 8.0 teachers from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005

Thirty-five classes in core and non-core areas with 28-32 students

Classified staff reductions (2 FTE)

Programs and departments that have been eliminated or have suffered a reduced number of staff since the 1999-2000 school year

Family and Consumer Science	Industrial Tech	Art
Physical Education	Auto	Band/Choir
Social Studies	Math	English
Business/Computer	Foreign language	

Courses Eliminated

Adv. Speech	American Cultural Studies	Auto Mechanics I
Auto Mechanics II	Auto Mechanics III	Child Development
Clothing and Textiles	Creative Writing II	Drama II
Electronics	Family Living	Foods I
Housing	Independent Living	Industrial Technology
Jazz Band	Life Skills	Multi Media Art History
Marriage and Family	Mixed Mediums	Music Theory
Mythology	Nutrition and Foods	Power Mechanics
Survival Cooking	Swing Choir	Journalism

Activities eliminated:

Boy's tennis (community sponsored)	One 9 th grade GBB team
One 9 th grade BBB team	One Assistant Cheerleading Coach
One FB Varsity Assistant	One Track Varsity Assistant
Improv	Epiphany
Several classified positions	<u>The Lookout</u> student newspaper

Activities impacted:

Since 1999-2000 there have been cuts made in salaries, supplies, meals, travel, dues/fees and professional services in these areas:

Debate	Lookout	Activity Director	Cheerleading
Wrestling	Cross-Country	Boys Golf	Intramurals
Choir	Drama		

Future Considerations

Staff reductions/class size

Athletics/activities

Assistant Principal/Activities Director

Loss of electives (foreign language, pottery, photo, welding)

Knowledge Bowl

Alternative schools

DISTRICT-LEVEL REDUCTIONS

Elimination of Curriculum Director position

Reduced office staff size by 1 FTE (20% reduction in clerical staff)