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Collinsville School District seeks to reduce costs

CHANGES MAY INCLUDE NEW ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES

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By Ramona C. Sanders | Posted: Wednesday, December 21, 2011 12:00 am | No Comments Posted

Reducing bus routes and changing attendance boundaries are some of the things being considered by the Collinsville school board as a result of a \$250,000 shortfall in transportation reimbursement from the state.

Superintendent Bob Green said the district is conducting a two-phase transportation study. The first phase was to purchase a \$12,000 GPS-based computer software system to analyze routing data. The second phase involves the possibility of hiring Edulog, a Montana-based education logistic consulting company, to provide analysis of that data and offer ways to make the district's bus routes more efficient.

Green said making the busing system more efficient may involve reducing stops, staggering school start times and changing attendance boundaries.

"There's a possibility of shifting of students from one school to another," said Green. "If we shift a dozen students here or a dozen students there and it saves money, certainly the board may want to consider that."

Edulog representative Ben Nielsen, spoke before the board's budget committee on Dec. 12. He said there would be a one-time cost for the initial analysis and the remaining fee will be taken from a percentage of the amount the district saves once it implements the recommended changes.

"The savings will be 80 percent the first year, and 100 percent after that," Nielsen said.

Green said the board is planning to make a final decision on contracting Eudolog's services at its January meeting.

Green said an improved transportation system will also help provide better oversight to the school's transportation vendor, First Student, but the district has no intention of changing transportation providers.

The district has to look at making its busing system more efficient because the state has reduced its transportation reimbursement to school districts, Green said.

Contact reporter Ramona C. Sanders at 618-344-0264, ext. 136

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