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EDUCATION

Akron Public Schools board passes 5-year forecast with \$10M in cuts next school year

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The Akron Public Schools board on Monday approved a five-year forecast, promising to make \$10 million of cuts effective next school year.

The board's passage of the forecast will allow the treasurer to submit it to the state Tuesday, avoiding the possibility the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce would have put the district into state oversight.

The forecast was due to the state by Nov. 30 but board members declined to vote on it at the Nov. 25 meeting, stating they wanted more details on what would be cut, not just which departments in the district the cuts would come from.

Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Steve Thompson said Monday night during the meeting that the superintendent had sent the board some additional information since the last meeting, but that information was not shared publicly.

The breakdown of the cuts shared at the Nov. 25 meeting was as follows:

- Department of Academics: \$1,793,993
- Department of Student Services: \$1,103,608
- Department of Schools and Accountability: \$4,834,045.27
- Department of Communications: \$0
- Department of Talent & Organization: \$85,000
- Department of Operations: \$2,388,912
- Total reductions: \$10,205,558.27

No additional information was provided at Monday's meeting, but the board was pressed against the possibility of state oversight if a forecast was not approved. The penalty for not

submitted a five-year forecast by the deadlines in May and November is fiscal caution, the state's first of three tiers of financial oversight.

The district did not have to make cuts ahead of the passage of the November five-year forecast, but board members said previously they wanted to bake the cuts into the forecast as a way of following through on the promise of making reductions if voters passed a levy, which they did last month.

This story will be updated.

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