

The .5 Mill Referendum

**FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR
MONROE COUNTY SCHOOLS**

RENEW FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR MONROE COUNTY SCHOOLS

- The District's objective is to continue to make available a portion of the existing capital ad valorem tax levy for operations – such as teachers, school nurses and classroom materials. The District intends to continue its reduced millage for capital projects, and continue to make available the equivalent amount for operations.
- Shall the District continue to enact a yearly ad valorem tax of .5 mill, for four years beginning July 1, 2008 for operating purposes?

_____ YES

_____ NO

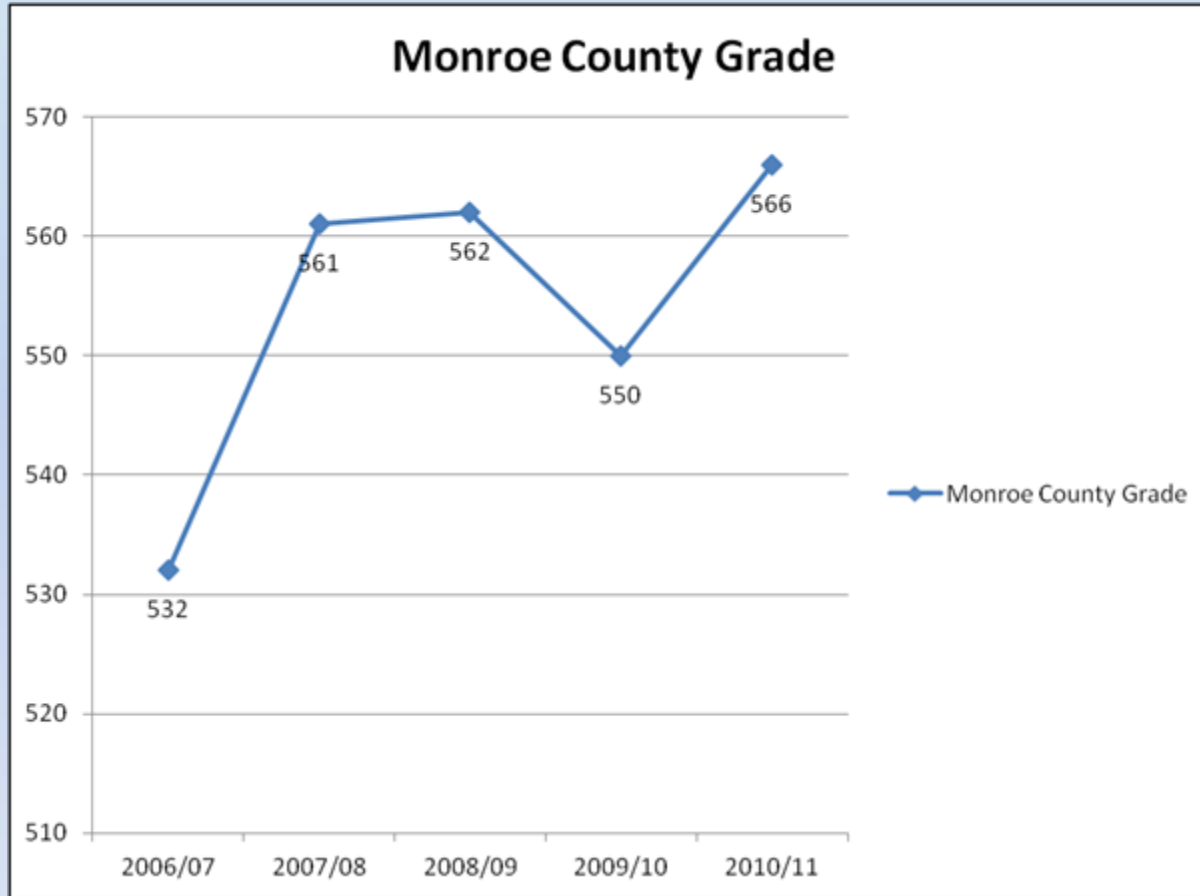
Student Outcomes:

How are MCSD students performing?

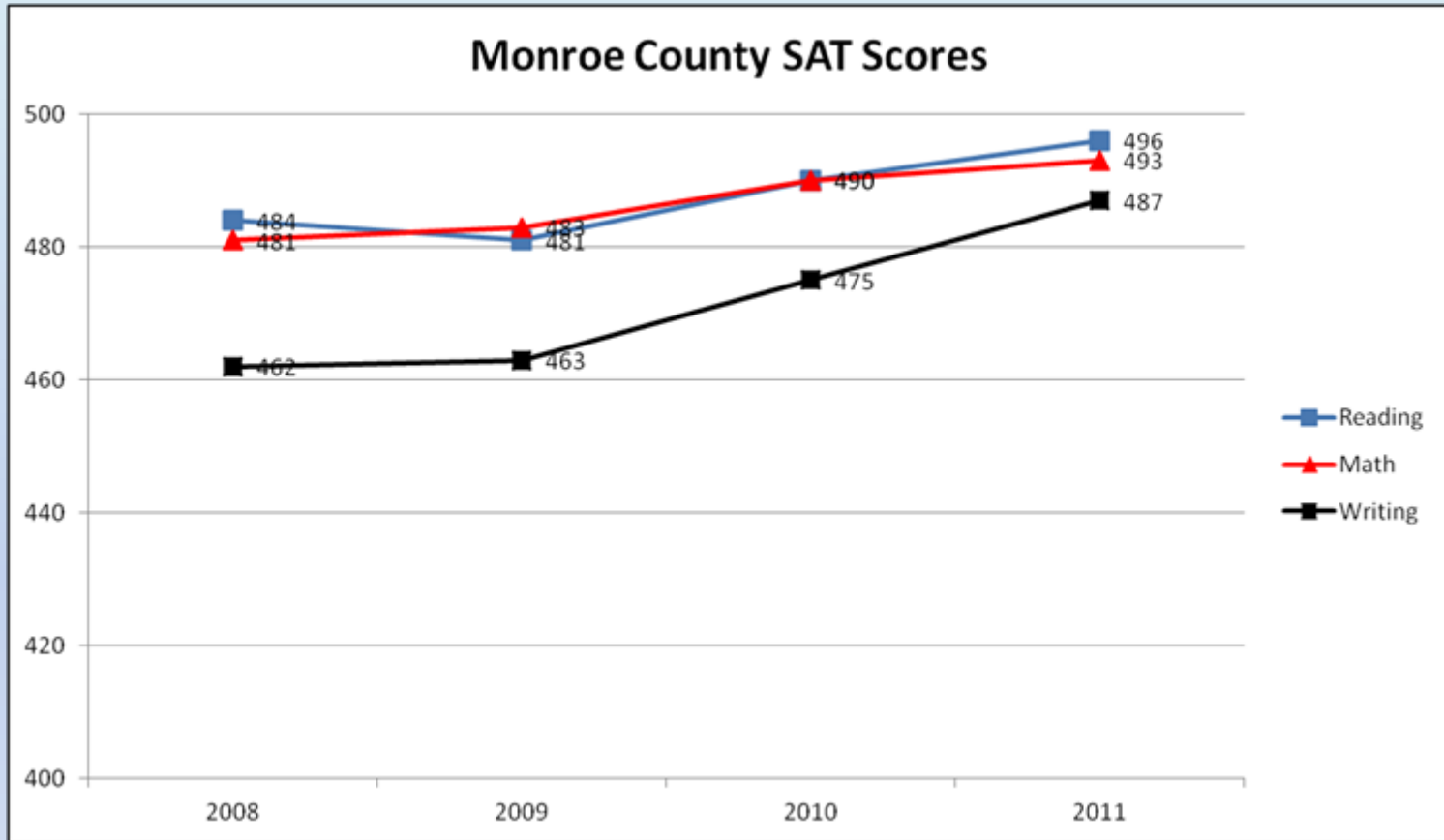
Reporting period (2006- current):

Monroe County is an “A” rated district. The letter grade is produced from a compilation of various measured student outcomes that are added up for a numerical scoring. A minimum score of 525 is needed to make a “A” grade.

Below is a graph of the Monroe County School District Grade



While there was a decline in 2009/10, the trend line is up and well above the 525 needed for an “A” rating. This past year Monroe County scored 566, ranking it 8th in Florida- the highest we have ever placed.



Florida average SAT scores:

Reading- 483

Math- 486

Writing- 466

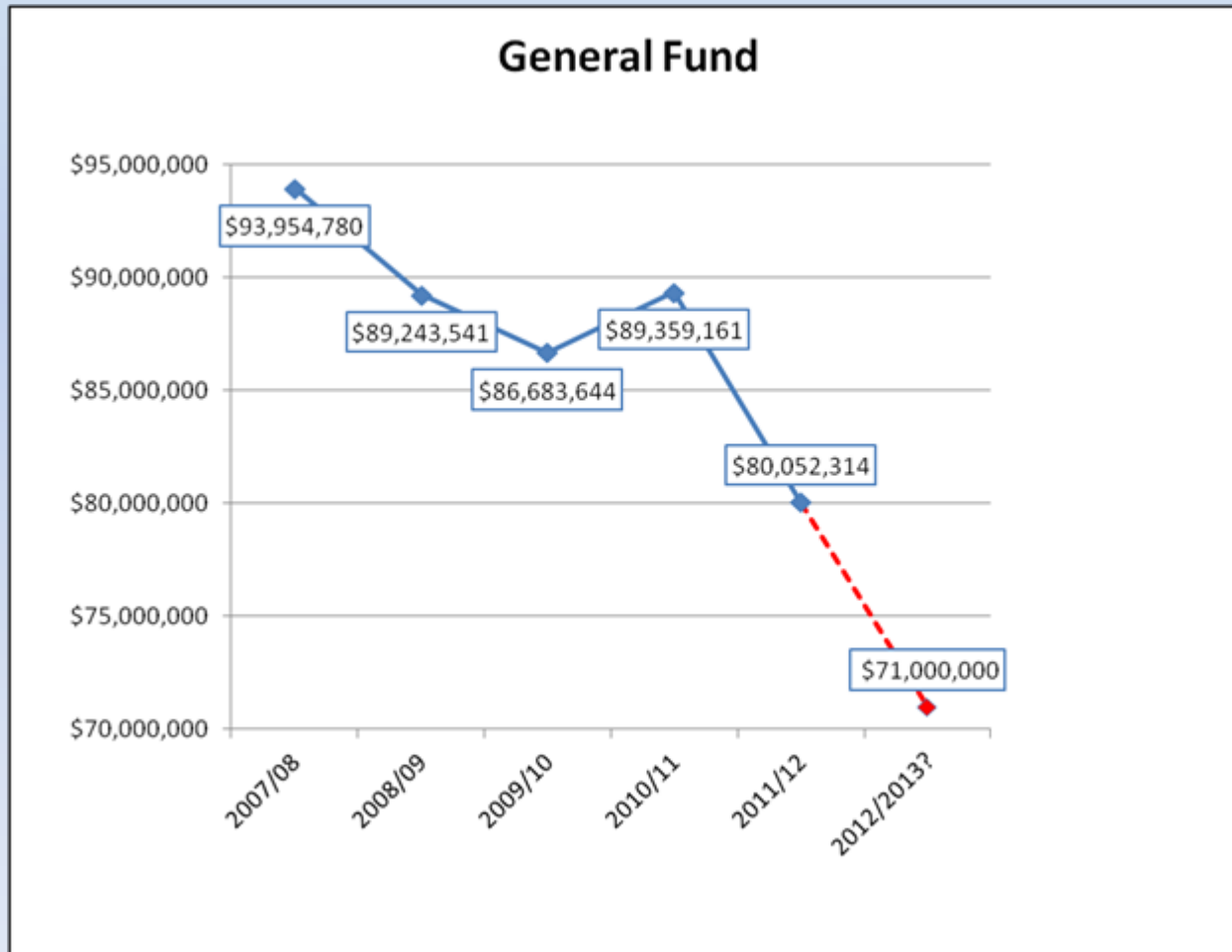
National average SAT Scores:

Reading- 494

Math- 506

Writing- 483

Below is a graph showing the General Fund budget for the last five years. The total reduction over the period is \$13,902,466 or 14.8%. With the greatest budget impact taking place this year, with a loss of \$9,306,847 or 10.4%. *If the .5 Mill fails to be approved by the voters then the MCSD will face another major budget shortfall- as depicted in the red broken line below.*

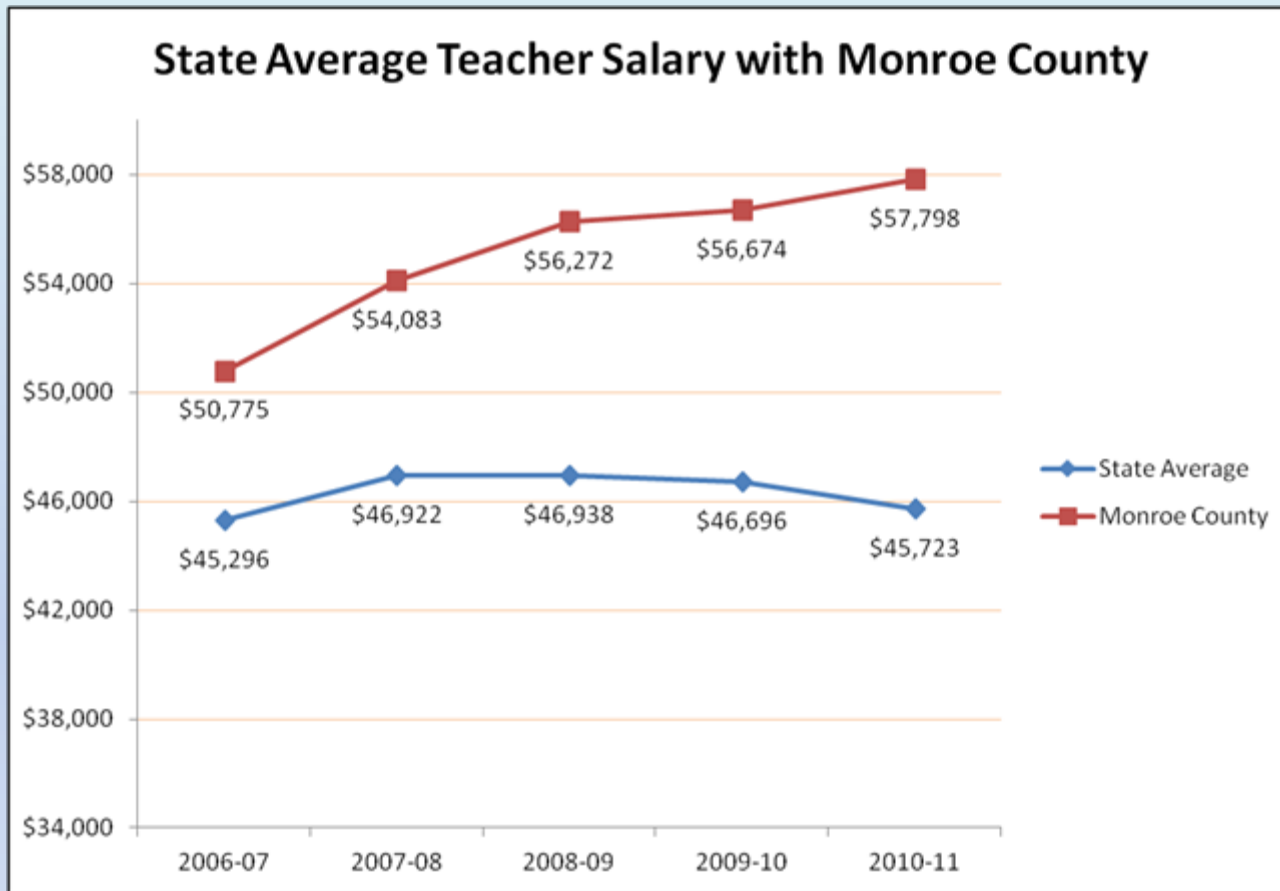


Below is a graph showing how much revenue (which is part of the General Fund) the .5 mill referendum has generated during a five year time period. The amount is controlled by the property values, which in Monroe County have been in a downward trend. Over this five year period, the yearly revenue has dropped by \$4,437,562 or 31.2%



What have we done with our revenues?

We promised the voters that we would use a large portion of the referendum revenue for the teachers. As of last year Monroe County teachers are the highest paid teachers in the state. During the 5 year period the average teacher salary in Florida increased by \$427 or 0.94%. In that same period the average salary for a Monroe County teacher increased by \$7,023 or 13.83%. This was accomplished despite declining revenues.

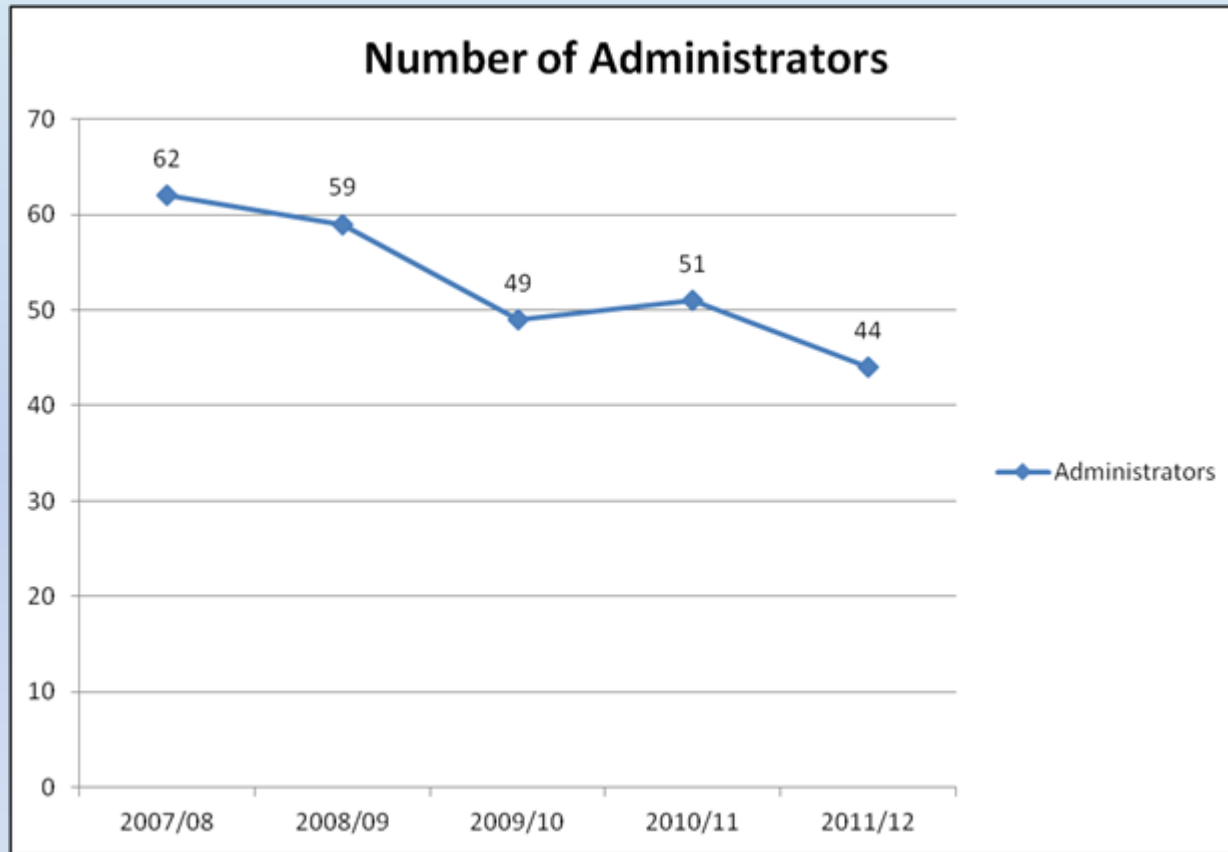


During this same time period there are 12 districts in Florida that the average teacher salary is lower now than it was 5 years ago. No district in Florida can match the dollar amount, or the percentage, of the raise in average salary that occurred for the Monroe County teachers.

What have we done to compensate for the reduced funding levels?

- Since employee costs represent approximately 80% of the budget, we had to make staff reductions in instructional, administration and support personnel.
- Reduced district travel costs
- Discretionary spending
- Purchased services

Monroe County School District has had a reputation for being overly staffed in administration, therefore, in the last few years we have significantly reduced administration.

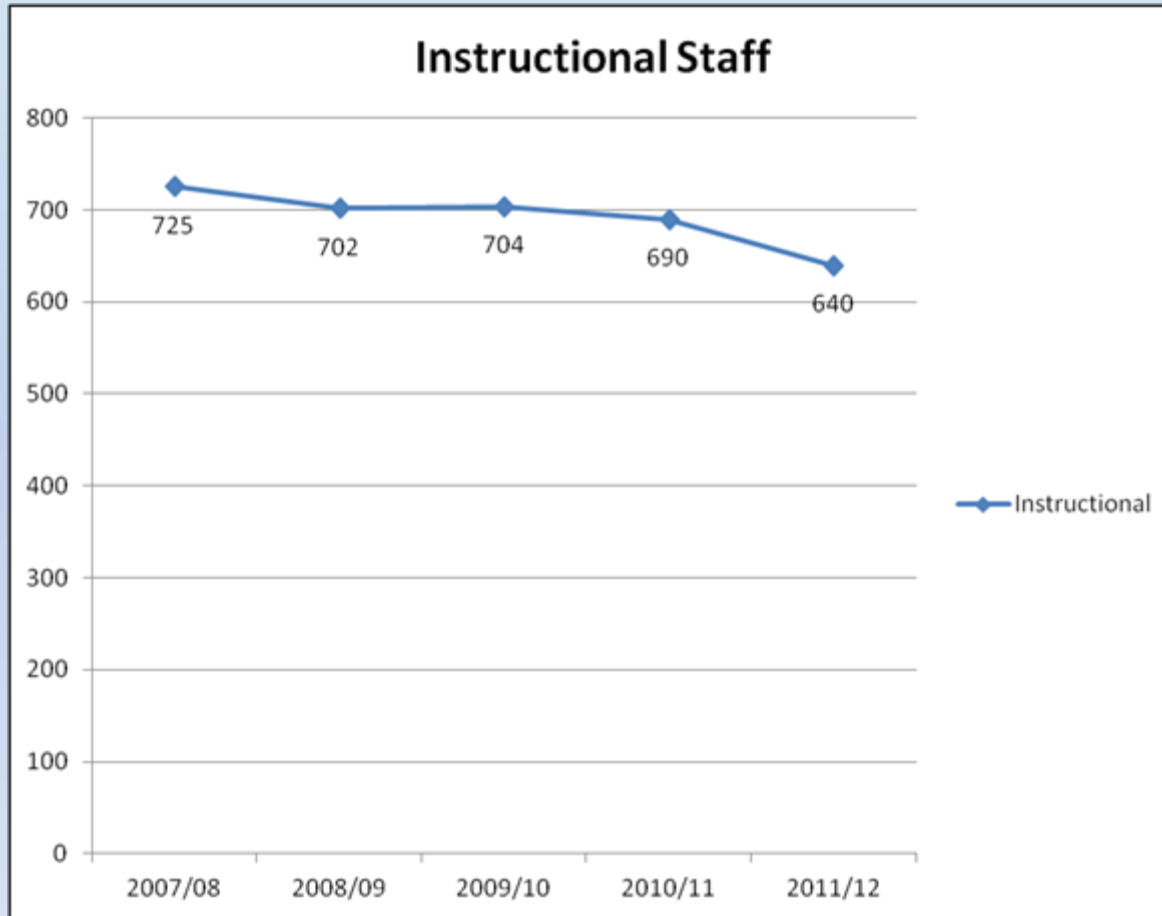


- The district has reduced total administrators (district & school) by 18 or 29%.
- In 2008, there were 14 administrators making over \$100K for a total of \$1,594,456.
- Currently, there are only 9 administrators with salaries over \$100k for a total of \$1,012,320.

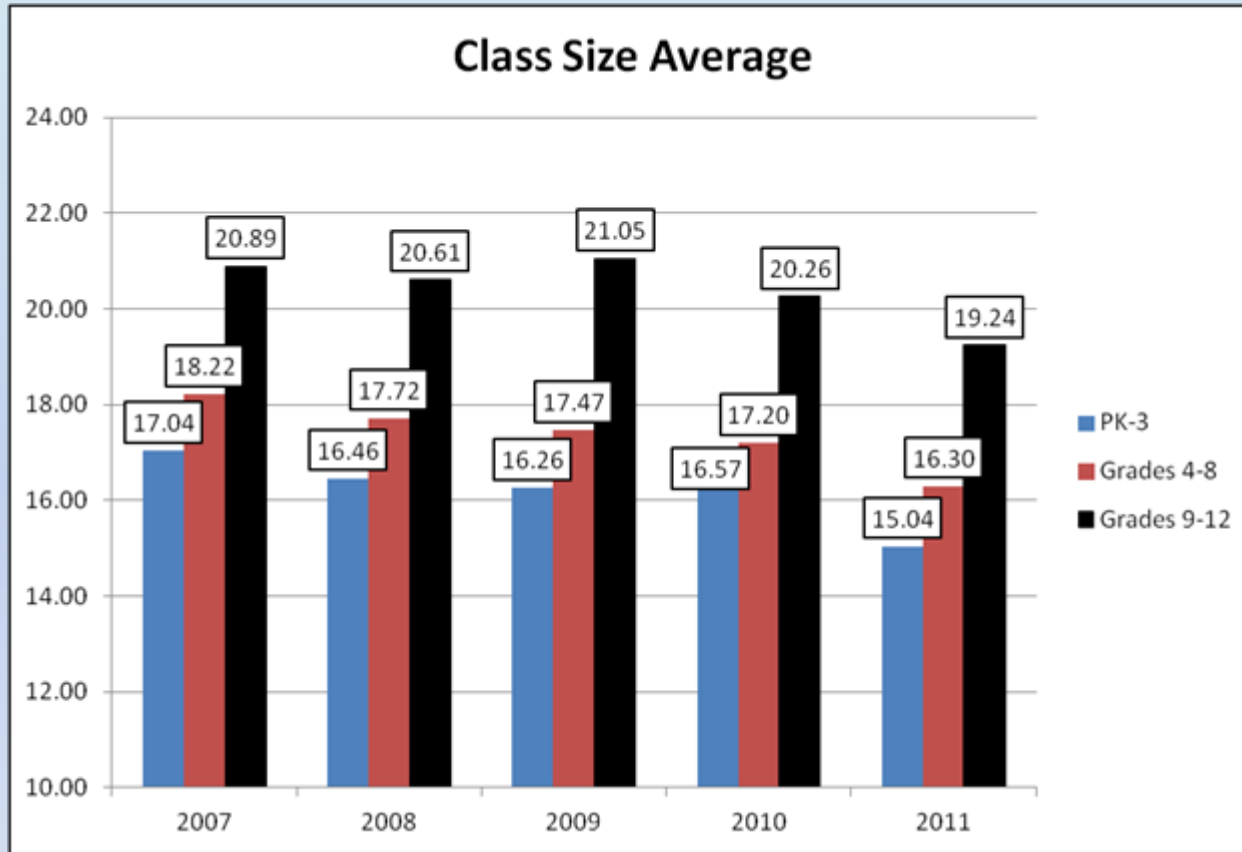
Instructional Personnel

- During the five year period we reduced 85 instructional positions or 11.7%.
- Reductions in instructional staff targeted non-classroom positions including, CRT's, Reading Coaches, Media Specialists, & Counselors.
- During this period, MCSD has been in compliance with class size regulations.

Instructional Personnel Over a Five Year Period



Class Size



State class size limits-

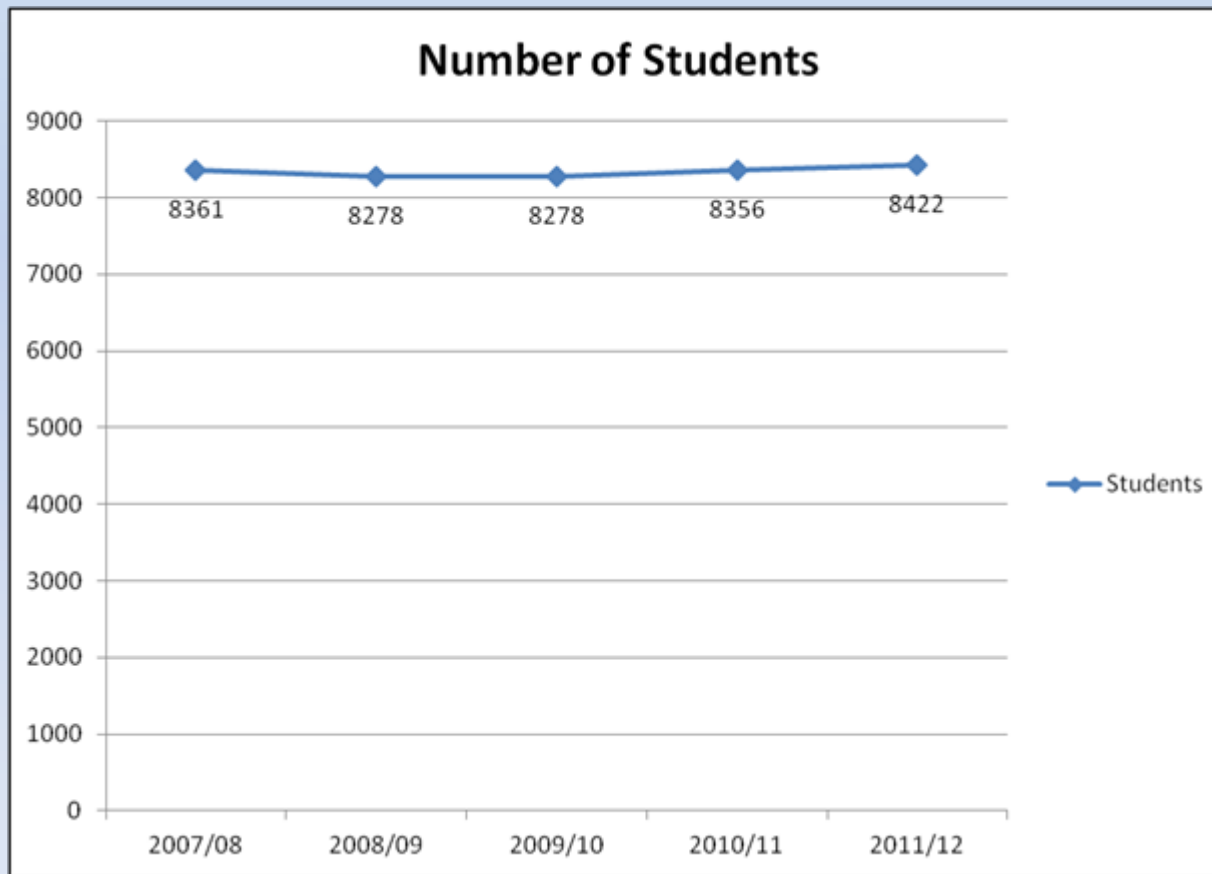
PK-3: **18 students**

Grades 4-8: **22 students**

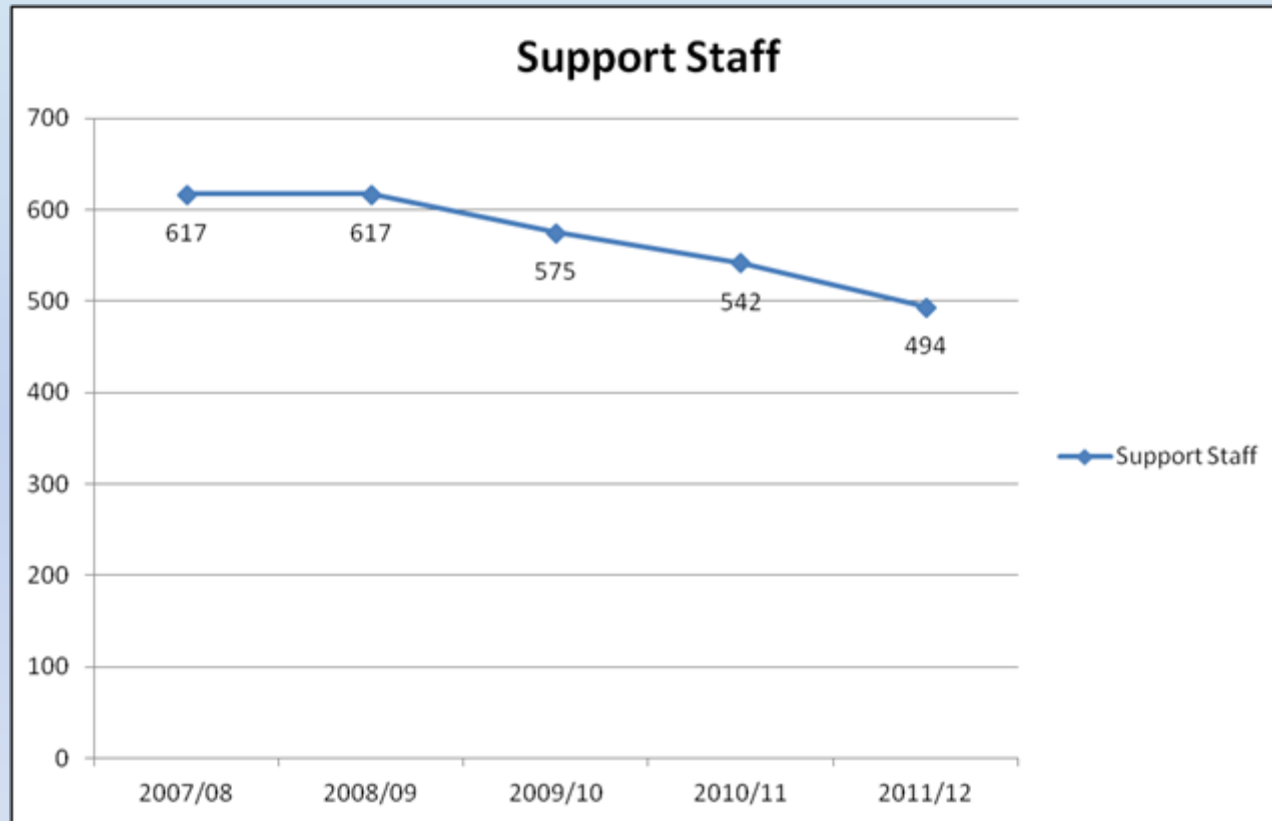
Grades 9-12: **25 students**

Student Enrollment Over Five Years

The number of students has fluctuated between 8,278 and 8,422 during the five year period which is less than a 1% variation.



We have also reduced support staff which includes everyone not in the Administration and Instructional categories.



In the Support Staff category, we reduced by 123 employees or 19.9%.

Where Are We Now?

- While employee reductions have unfortunately become a necessity, we have kept the reductions at the classroom level to a minimum and have maintained the state mandated class size requirements.

- To recap the reductions:

Administrative	29.0%	↓
Instructional	11.7%	↓
Support Staff	19.9%	↓

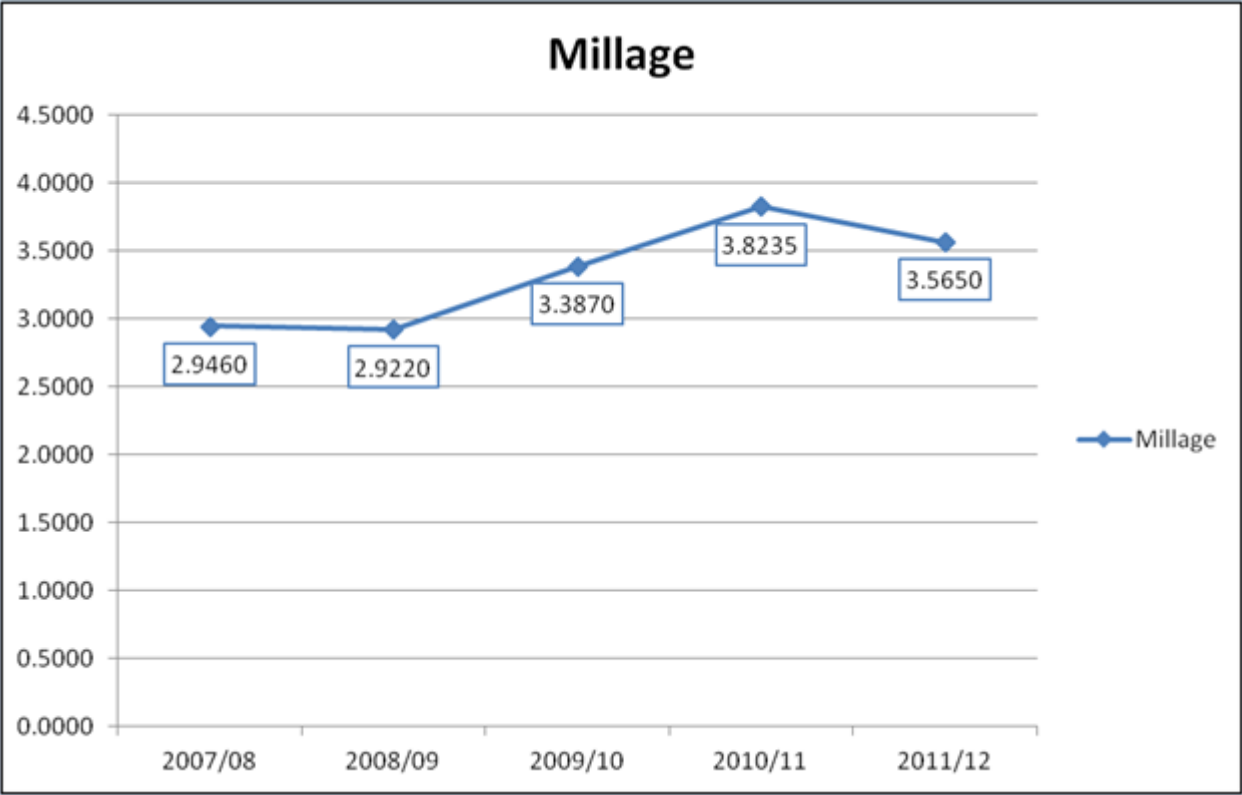
Millage Rates

While the legislature sets the required local effort, the school board currently has the general fund discretionary at the maximum level allowed by law.

During this period the school board has at times lowered the discretionary millage in order to provide relief for the taxpayers.

With the current relatively high unemployment level in Monroe County, the board has tried to balance the needs of the school district with the expectations of the local populace.

The millage rate for the last five years is shown in the chart below.



Implications

- Preliminary estimates for next year's property values do not show any improvement and will most likely result in reduced revenues for MCSD.
- It is important to understand that no matter how anyone votes on the referendum it will not increase individual tax bills. It will only affect where the school district can use the revenue - either the General Fund or the Capital Fund. While our Capital Fund balances are also declining the district does expect to be able to meet the needs of that account and the debt payments for the foreseeable future.
- However, if the General Fund were to absorb another \$9 million budget reduction next year, it would most likely have a detrimental effect on student outcomes and assuredly have a devastating effect on our employees.

Please support the .5 Mill Referendum

Vote Yes



Thank you for your time.