

“What cuts have been made to the Northeast Dubois General Fund?”

I have been asked this question many times during the Feasibility Study. I would like to share the following information that was contained within the study and can also be calculated from information on the Indiana Department of Education data website.

General fund expenses (general fund + general fund expenses paid out of the rainy day fund) in 2012 = \$6,775,000.

General fund expenses (general fund + general fund expenses paid out of the rainy day fund in 2015 = \$6,186,000.

Total reduction in expenses in three years = \$589,000.

General fund revenue in 2012 totaled \$6,130,000

General fund revenue in 2015 totaled \$5,900,000

Total reduction in revenue during this time period = \$230,000.

The potential for loss in revenue during this period could have been an even greater decline in revenue as our enrollment dropped 75 students, which amounts to \$390,000 in lost revenue. Instead of the decline in revenue being \$390,000, it ended as \$230,000. Thus indicating we have increased revenue during this period by \$160,000.

Here is one example how this increase in revenue in the general fund was possible. In 2012 we partnered with our local Dubois REC and had an energy audit done for the school corporation. We entered into a contract with them under the conditions that the audit would be free of cost to us if we implemented the recommendations of the audit findings. The findings produced a need for improved lighting in our buildings. Over the past three years our maintenance department has worked diligently to replace the lights throughout our district. The cost of the lighting was paid for out of funds other than the general fund. Many of the lights came with rebates attached to them at purchase. We were able to deposit these rebate dollars into the general fund, thus increasing revenue in the general fund. In addition, the results of these new and more efficient lighting systems have produced a decrease in our electric bill of \$40,000 compared to before starting the project.

In addition, in 2013 we saved an additional \$150,000 from other funds to deposit into the rainy day fund in order to cover our general fund deficit. In 2014 we saved \$200,000 and in 2015 \$190,000.