

# News Writing

## State Meet • 2025



You are a reporter for the **Leaguetown Press**, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School.

From the given information, write a **news story** as you would for the high school newspaper. You may use statements attributed to individuals as **direct or indirect quotes**. You may not change the meaning of a statement. You have **45 minutes**.

Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or your entry. **Put your number on your paper.**

Leaguetown High School has 4,480 students enrolled in grades 9-12. In March, the district announced that it anticipated an \$18 million budget shortfall ahead of the 2025-2026 school year.

With the announcement, Superintendent Leslie Bruck announced a list of potential solutions the district was looking at to reduce the effects of the deficit. One solution was to close three elementary schools with declining enrollment. Another was to cut programs such as AVID, as well as several Career and Technical Education classes. The announcement also mentioned the possibility of eliminating more than 100 teacher positions, including 25 elementary positions and 75 middle school and high school positions.

Since the announcement, the school board has had two extended meetings where they heard more than an hour of comments from the public, mostly from parents and students concerned about the prospect of closing their neighborhood elementary schools, shutting down programs or increasing class sizes because of teacher cuts. At April's board meeting, one parent, who was protesting the closure of Sadler Elementary School, was arrested when she refused to leave the podium after her allotted speaking time.

To help make the decisions on where to make cuts, the school board appointed a budget task force to help make the final decisions. The task force included the district's Chief Financial Officer Lydia Busby, Mayor Reginald Green and Principal Mirah Luby along with three other administrators and five parents of students in the district.

Busby will present the task force's final proposal at the school board meeting Wednesday, May 21, after which the board will vote on it.

You are writing for the issue of the press to be distributed May 19.

### ■ **LESLIE BRUCK, superintendent**

"It's true that things in our district and in other surrounding districts are going to be tight for the next couple of years. Our funding from the state has not caught up with the changing education landscape and the cost of doing business. While our state legislature works on that, we need to take some swift action to mitigate the shortfall as much as we can. We can control only the things we can control. The change in our demographics has been one of the contributing factors for us. In 2018, our demographers predicted a 20% increase in district enrollment by the year 2030. Instead, enrollment has declined for the past two years.

"The last thing we want is to have to tell any employee they don't have a job next year. Our hope is that enough teachers will retire or make other plans for next year so that we never have to have that conversation with a teacher. Teachers, students and parents need to prepare themselves. Class sizes will

### ■ **LESLIE BRUCK, continued**

likely be a bit larger. It's possible that we may have to close some of those elementary schools. We have been lucky so far in this community to have small, neighborhood elementary schools. As the residents in some of those neighborhoods age and there are no longer young children to go to that neighborhood school, it makes sense that we may need to combine some of those schools, which would cut our costs significantly. What I'm hoping our task force will be able to accomplish is that we keep as many programs as we can. We want to keep as many schools open as we can. We want to keep as many teachers in their jobs as we can. But the reality is that we will not be able to maintain the status quo in this environment."

### ■ **LYDIA BUSBY, chief financial officer**

"Our task force has met for about three hours every week for the past six weeks or so. We've done some surveying in the community to determine what our priorities are, whether it's smaller class sizes or keeping some of those low-enrollment schools around. I know we have some students in AVID and some of our CTE classes who are very concerned about missing out on those opportunities in the future. But we can't spend money we don't have. We appreciate all the feedback we've gotten from our stakeholders whether it's through emails, online comments or those individuals who waited patiently for their turn to speak at a school board meeting. I believe our deficit reduction plan is fair and will still present students with the quality education they've come to expect from Leaguetown. It's what we're known for. Even if we have to make a few adjustments, we're still going to be the same district we've always been. We're still Leaguetown."

### ■ **SAM LONSDALE, sophomore**

"AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It's all about getting students prepared for college. AVID has made me really think about applying for college, whereas before, I wasn't sure what I would do after high school. Now it looks like the program may be cut. This would be a devastating loss for the school. The juniors in AVID go to three college visits during the school year, and I was really looking forward to going to see Stephen F. Austin State University with my AVID class. They have an amazing criminal justice program there, and this was my only opportunity to tour the campus before I apply. This is the class that was making me feel ready for what comes after high school. I can't lose AVID."

### ■ **SUSAN BELL, English teacher**

"Since this announcement in March, there has been a dark cloud hanging over the school. Some of the best teachers I know are going to lose their jobs. Kids are going to lose their favorite teacher. Classes are going to get even larger. It's sad. I don't necessarily blame the district for the shortfall. They have to play the hand they're dealt. My real hope is that the state rethinks the way schools are funded in the future."

### ■ **GREGORY ALAN, parent**

"I have one son who goes to Sadler Elementary and one son who is heavily involved in the high school robotics program. It's ridiculous to me that both of these things are now on the chopping block. I seriously hope the district is searching for other cuts that could be made because as things look right now, we may not stay here. These changes will be devastating for our kids."

### ■ **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In Texas, schools are funded based on daily average attendance. The Texas House passed a \$8 billion funding bill this session to increase the per-student basic allotment. The bill will go to the Senate for further consideration before it could be signed by Gov. Greg Abbott.

**DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS BEFORE OR DURING THE CONTEST!**

## State Meet • 2025 News Writing Contest Tips and Sample Story

Contest Director: Give one copy to each judge to use during judging. Also, staple one copy of the contest and one copy of the contest tips to each student's returned entry. The purpose of the tips is to provide immediate feedback to students. However, it is not meant to replace written comments from the judge.

1. Open with the most timely lead, given the current circumstances, probably the future event or events. In this instance, the story will be published before the school board decides whether or not to approve a new deficit reduction plan.

To address a projected \$18 million budget shortfall for the 2025–2026 school year, a district-appointed budget task force will present its final deficit reduction plan for a vote at Wednesday's school board meeting.

2. Use direct quotes and use those quotes early in the story. Start with the most important interview to the story. After you introduce quotes, use the transition/quote formula. Be sure you attribute the quote. An attribution should be: subject of attribution followed by the verb of attribution ("Bruck said," not "said Bruck.") Avoid putting two or more quotes from different people together without placing a transition between them (stacking quotes). Also, make sure transitions provide information to help the story flow, and that the quote does not repeat information revealed in the transition.

### **transition**

The district first announced the shortfall in March, along with a list of proposed cost-cutting measures, including closing three elementary schools, cutting programs like AVID and Career and Technical Education courses and eliminating more than 100 teaching positions across all grade levels.

### **direct quote**

"Some of the best teachers I know are going to lose their jobs," English teacher Susan Bell said. "Kids are going to lose their favorite teacher. Classes are going to get even larger. It's sad."

### **transition**

Since the announcement, the school board has held two extended meetings where community members voiced concerns. One parent, protesting the closure of Sadler Elementary, was arrested after refusing to leave the podium when her speaking time ended.

**direct quote**

“I have one son who goes to Sadler Elementary and one son who is heavily involved in the high school robotics program,” elementary and high school parent Gregory Alan said. “It’s ridiculous to me that both of these things are now on the chopping block. I seriously hope the district is searching for other cuts that could be made because as things look right now, we may not stay here.”

3. Use third person. Don’t say “our students” or “our principal” or “Some of our students.” Also, do not editorialize. For instance, you should not say “This idea probably won’t work...” or “The district should ...” without attributing that quote to someone. These statements are personal opinions and cannot be made in a news story.

4. Note how in the earlier example of transition/quote, each quote is its own paragraph. Journalistic writing consists mostly of one- and two-sentence paragraphs.

5. End with a strong quote that wraps up the story.

## SAMPLE STORY

To address a projected \$18 million budget shortfall for the 2025–2026 school year, a district-appointed budget task force will present its final deficit reduction plan for a vote at Wednesday's school board meeting.

"What I'm hoping our task force will be able to accomplish is that we keep as many programs as we can," Superintendent Leslie Bruck said. "We want to keep as many schools open as we can. We want to keep as many teachers in their jobs as we can. But the reality is that we will not be able to maintain the status quo in this environment."

The district first announced the shortfall in March, along with a list of proposed cost-cutting measures, including closing three elementary schools, cutting certain programs and courses and eliminating more than 100 teaching positions across all grade levels.

"Some of the best teachers I know are going to lose their jobs," English teacher Susan Bell said. "Kids are going to lose their favorite teacher. Classes are going to get even larger. It's sad."

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a program that focuses on college readiness. Along with Career and Technical Education courses, the AVID program is on the list of potential cuts.

"AVID has made me really think about applying for college, whereas before, I wasn't sure what I would do after high school," sophomore Sam Lonsdale said. "Now it looks like the program may be cut. This would be a devastating loss for the school."

Since the announcement, the school board has held two extended meetings where community members voiced concerns. One parent, protesting the closure of Sadler Elementary, was arrested after refusing to leave the podium when her speaking time ended.

"I have one son who goes to Sadler Elementary and one son who is heavily involved in the high school robotics program," elementary and high school parent Gregory Alan said. "It's ridiculous to me that both of these things are now on the chopping block. I seriously hope the district is searching for other cuts that could be made because as things look right now, we may not stay here."

In Texas, public school funding is based on average daily attendance. A bill proposing an \$8 billion increase in public school funding has passed the Texas House but has yet to clear the Senate.

"The change in our demographics has been one of the contributing factors for us," Bruck said. "In 2018, our demographers predicted a 20% increase in district enrollment by the year 2030. Instead, enrollment has declined for the past two years."

The budget task force, composed of Chief Financial Officer Lydia Busby, Mayor Reginald Green, Principal Mirah Luby, three administrators and five parents, has met weekly for the past six weeks, gathering community input and weighing cost-saving options.

"I believe our deficit reduction plan is fair and will still present students with the quality education they've come to expect from Leaguetown," Busby said. "It's what we're known for. Even if we have to make a few adjustments, we're still going to be the same district we've always been. We're still Leaguetown."

## NEWS WRITING

1A—Isabella Velasquez—Lasara

To help the district decide on final solutions for a budget cut, Lydia Busby, the chief financial officer, will present a proposal to the board Wednesday, with the help of the rest of the newly-appointed task force.

In March, the district announced an \$18 million budget shortfall for the 2025-2026 school year. Superintendent Leslie Bruck suggested numerous solutions, including cutting programs and eliminating over 100 teacher positions. After people opposed these solutions, the task force will help the board make the final decision.

“It’s true that things in our district and in other surrounding districts are going to be tight for the next couple of years,” Bruck said. “Our funding from the state has not caught up with the changing education landscape and the cost of doing business. We can only control what we can control.”

Bruck, who hopes some teachers will retire so he doesn’t have to fire them, said teachers, students, and parents need to prepare themselves for the future.

“Class sizes will likely be a bit larger,” he said. “We have been lucky so far in this community to have small, neighborhood elementary schools. As the residents in some of those neighborhoods age and there are no longer young children to go to that neighborhood school, it makes sense that we may need to combine some of those schools, which would cut our costs significantly.”

In order to not eliminate anything, Bruck said he hopes the force will be able to help the school keep as many programs as possible.

“We want to keep as many schools open as we can,” Bruck said. “We want to keep as many teachers in their job as we can. But the reality is that we will not be able to maintain the status quo in this environment.”

Busby said the task force, who met every week for the past six weeks, surveyed the community and determined what the priorities were.

“We appreciate all the feedback we’ve gotten from our stakeholders whether it’s through emails, online comments or those individuals who waited patiently for their turn to speak at a school board meeting. I believe our deficit reduction plan is fair and will still present students with the quality education they’ve come to expect from Leaguetown.”

Sophomore Sam Lonsdale said Advancement Via Individual Determination, a program that might be cut, is all about getting students prepared for college.

“AVID has made me really think about applying for college, whereas before, I wasn’t sure what I would do after high school,” Lonsdale said. “Now it looks like the program may be cut. This is the class that was making me feel ready for what comes after high school. I can’t lose AVID.”

Parent Gregory Alan said he and one son who goes to an elementary in the district and one son who is involved in the high school robotics program.

“It’s ridiculous to me that both of these things are now on the chopping block,” he said. “I seriously hope the district is searching for other cuts that could be made because as things look right now, we may not stay here. These changes will be devastating for our kids.”

## 2A—Kaylin Miller—Shelbyville

To prepare for the prediction \$18 million budget shortfall within the district, Superintendent Leslie Bruck's budget task force will present a proposal of budget cuts before the school board on Wednesday. After the presentation, the board will vote on a final decision.

"Our funding from the state has not caught up with the changing education landscape and the cost of doing business," Superintendent Bruck said. "While our state legislature works on that, we need to take some swift action to mitigate the shortfall as much as we can."

The list of potential solutions to this issue includes the closing of three elementary schools with declining enrollment, the cutting of extracurricular programs such as AVID or CTE classes, and the elimination of more than 100 teacher positions.

"What I'm hoping our task force will be able to accomplish is that we keep as many programs as we can," Superintendent Bruck said. "We want to keep as many schools open as we can. We want to keep as many teachers in their jobs as we can. But the reality is that we will not be able to maintain the status quo in this environment."

The task force, which includes the district's Chief Financial Officer Lydia Busby, Mayor Reginald Green, and Principal Mirah Luby, has met for approximately eighteen hours over the last six weeks. During their meetings, they have surveyed the community to accurately determine priority areas.

"We appreciate all the feedback we've gotten from our stakeholders whether it's through emails, online comments, or those individuals who waited patiently for their turn to speak at a school board meeting," Busby said. "I believe our deficit reduction plan is fair and will still present students everywhere with the quality education they've come to expect from Leaguetown."

Since the budget shortfall was announced, the school board has held two extended meetings, in which they heard more than an hour of comments from the parents and students who were concerned about the incoming changes. In one instance, a parent was arrested after refusing to step away from the podium after her allotted speaking time.

"Since this announcement in March, there has been a dark cloud hanging over the school," English teacher Susan Bell said. "Some of the best teachers I know are going to lose their jobs. Kids are going to lose their favorite teacher. Classes are going to get even larger. It's sad. My real hope is that the state rethinks the way schools are funded in the future."



Texas schools are funded based on daily average attendance. Recently, the Texas house passed an \$8 billion funding bill to increase the per-students basic allotment. The bill will first be presented to the Senate, then Gov. Greg Abbott before it has the opportunity to be signed.

“Even if we have to make a few adjustments, we’re still going to be the same district we’ve always been,” Busby said. “We’re still Leaguetown.”

### 3A—Peyton Yosten—White Oak

To help make the decisions on where to make budget cuts, the district's Chief Financial Officer Lydia Busby will present the task force's final proposal at the school board meeting next Wednesday. The district announced that it anticipated an \$18 million budget shortfall ahead of the 2025-2026 school year.

"It's true that things in our district and in other surrounding districts are going to be tight for the next couple of years," Superintendent Leslie Bruck said. "Our funding from the state has not caught up with the changing education landscape and the cost of doing business. While our legislature works on that, we need to take some swift action to mitigate the shortfall as much as we can."

The task force was appointed by the school board to help make the school's financial decisions. It includes Officer Busby, Mayor Reginald Green and Principal Mirah Luby along with three other administrators and five parents of students in the district.

"Our task force has met for about three hours every week for the past six weeks or so," Busby said. "We've done some surveying in the community to determine what our priorities are, whether it's smaller class sizes or keeping some of those low-enrollment schools around."

With the announcement, Bruck announced a list of potential solutions the district was looking at to reduce the effects of the deficit. One solution was to cut programs such as AVID as well as several Career and technical education classes. Another was the possibility of eliminating more than 100 teaching positions.

"AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination," sophomore Sam Lonsdale said. "It's all about getting students prepared for college. AVID has made me really think about applying for college, whereas before, I wasn't really sure what I would do after high school. Now it looks like the program may be cut. This would be a devastating loss for the school."

Since the announcement, the school board has had two extended meetings where they heard more than an hour of comments from the public, mostly from parents and students concerned about the prospect of closing their neighborhood elementary schools, shutting down programs or increasing class sizes because teacher cuts. At April's board meeting, one parent who was protesting the closure of Sadler Elementary School, was arrested when she refused to leave the podium after her allotted speaking time.

"I had a son who goes to Sadler Elementary and one son who is heavily involved in the high school robotics team," parent Gregory Alan said. "It's ridiculous to me that both of

these things are now on the chopping block. I seriously hope the district is searching for other cuts that could be made because as things look right now, we may not stay here. These changes will be devastating for our kids.”

In Texas, schools are funded based on daily average attendance. The Texas House passed a \$8 billion funding bill this session to increase per-student basic allotment. The bill will go to the Senate for further consideration before it could be signed by Gov. Greg Abbot.

“What I’m hoping our task force will be able to accomplish is that we keep as many programs as we can,” Bruck said. “We want to keep as many schools open as we can. We want to keep as many teachers in their jobs as we can. But the reality is that we will not be able to maintain the status quo in this environment. We can control only the things we can control.”

#### 4A—Glyn McDaniel—Waco Connally

In March, the district announced that it anticipated an \$18 million budget shortfall ahead of the 2025-2026 school year. After creating a budget task force to help make financial decisions, Chief Financial Officer Lydia Busby will present the task force's final proposal at the school board meeting on Wednesday, after which the board will vote on it.

"It's true that things in our district and in other surrounding districts are going to be tight for the next couple of years," Superintendent Leslie Bruck said. "While our state legislature works on that, we need to take some swift action to mitigate the shortfall as much as we can. We can control only the things we can control."

The task force included Busby, Mayor Reginald Green, Principal Mirah Luby, three administrators and five parents in the district. The task force has met for about three hours every week for the past six weeks surveying the community's priorities.

"What I'm hoping our task force will be able to accomplish is that we keep as many programs as we can," Bruck said. "We want to keep as many schools open as we can. We want to keep as many teachers in their jobs as we can. But the reality is that we will not be able to maintain the status quo in this environment."

In 2018, the district's demographics predicted a 20% increase in district enrollment by the year 2030. Instead, enrollment has declined for the past two years. In Texas, schools are funded based on daily average attendance. The Texas House passed a \$8 billion funding bill session to increase the per-student basic allotment.

"Since this announcement in March, there has been a dark cloud hanging over the school," English teacher Susan Bell said. "I don't necessarily blame the district for the shortfall. They have to play the hand they're dealt. My real hope is that the state rethinks the way schools are funded in the future."

The announcement has mentioned possibly closing programs such as AVID and Career and Technical Education classes to reduce the effects of the deficit. There is also a possibility of closing elementary schools with declining enrollment and eliminating more than 100 teaching positions, including 25 elementary positions, and 75 middle and high school positions.

"AVID has made me really think about applying for college, whereas before, I wasn't sure what I would do after high school," sophomore Sam Lonsdale said. "Now it looks like the program may be cut. This would be a devastating loss for the school. This is the class that was making me feel ready for what comes after high school. I can't lose AVID."

Since the announcement, the school board has had two extended meetings where they heard more than an hour of comments from the public, mostly from parents and students concerned about the prospect of closing their neighborhood elementary schools, shutting down programs or increasing class sizes because of teacher cuts.

“I have one son who goes to Sadler Elementary and one son who is heavily involved in the high school robotics program,” parent Gregory Alan said. “It’s ridiculous to me that both of these things are now on the chopping block. I seriously hope the district is searching for other cuts that could be made because as things look right now, we may not stay here. These changes will be devastating for our kids.”

Superintendent Bruck hopes that enough teachers will retire or make other plans for next year so that the district does not have to remove their position. He said it is possible that elementary schools will close and programs will be cut, and teachers, students and parents need to prepare themselves.

“We appreciate all the feedback we’ve gotten from our stakeholders whether it’s through emails, online comments or those individuals who waited patiently for their turn to speak at a school board meeting,” Busby said. “I believe our deficit reduction plan is fair and will still present students with the quality education they’ve come to expect from Leaguetown. Even if we have to make a few adjustments, we’re still going to be the same district we’ve always been. We’re still Leaguetown.”

## 5A—Mark Sifuentes—Nacogdoches

The district announced an \$18 million budget shortfall anticipated for the 2025-2026 school year in March. Since the announcement, the school board has had two extended meetings where they heard comments from the public who are concerned about potential budget cut solutions. The school board also appointed a budget task force to help decide on where to make cuts and will vote on the task force's final proposal at the next meeting Wednesday, May 21.

"It's true that things in our district and in other surrounding districts are going to be tight for the next couple of years," Superintendent Leslie Bruck said. "Our funding from the state has not caught up with the changing education landscape and the cost of doing business. While our state legislature works on that, we need to take some swift action to mitigate the shortfall as much as we can."

Bruck announced a list of potential solutions to combat the deficit. These solutions include closing three elementary schools with declining enrollment, cutting programs such as AVID and CTE classes, and eliminating more than 100 teacher positions.

"I have one son who goes to Sadler Elementary and one son who is heavily involved in the high school robotics program," parent Gregory Alan said. "It's ridiculous to me that both of these things are now on the chopping block. I seriously hope the district is searching for other cuts that could be made because as things look right now, we may not stay here."

The task force has met for around three hours every week for the past six weeks to decide on where to make cuts and believes their deficit reduction plan is fair and preserves students' quality of education.

"We've done some surveying in the community to determine what our priorities are, whether it's smaller class sizes or keeping some of those low-enrollment schools around," Chief Financial Officer Lydia Busby said. "I know we have some students in AVID and some of our CTE classes who are very concerned about missing out on those opportunities in the future. But we can't spend money we don't have."

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a college prep program that may be cut as a result of the budget deficit.

"AVID has made me really think about applying for college, whereas before, I wasn't sure what I would do after high school," sophomore Sam Lonsdale said. "This is the class that was making me feel ready for what comes after high school. I can't lose AVID."

Along with program cuts, teachers are at risk of losing their jobs if the district can't allot room for their positions.

"Some of the best teachers I know are going to lose their jobs," English teacher Susan Bell said. "Kids are going to lose their favorite teacher. Classes are going to get even larger. I don't necessarily blame the district for the shortfall. My real hope is that the state rethinks the way schools are funded in the future."

Schools are funded based on daily average attendance in Texas and the Texas House passed a \$8 billion funding bill to increase per-student basic allotment. The change in the district's demographics and a steady decline in enrollment over the last two years is a contributing factor to the shortfall.

We want to keep as many schools open as we can," Bruck said. "We want to keep as many teachers in their jobs as we can. But the reality is that we will not be able to maintain the status quo in this environment."

After the announcement of an anticipated \$18 million budget shortfall for the next school year, the school board appointed a budget task force led by Chief Financial Officer Lydia Busby to help make decisions on where to make cuts, and Busby will present the task force's final proposal at the school board meeting on Wednesday.

"I believe our deficit reduction plan is fair and will still present students with the quality education they've come to expect from Leaguetown," Busby said. "It's what we're known for. Even if we have to make a few adjustments, we're still going to be the same district we've always been. We're still Leaguetown."

Superintendent Leslie Bruck announced a list of potential programs that would be cut in order to meet this budget deficit, with one solution being closing three elementary schools that have declining enrollment.

"We have been lucky so far in this community to have small, neighborhood elementary schools," Bruck said. "As the residents in some of those neighborhoods age and there are no longer young children to go to that neighborhood school, it makes sense that we may need to combine some of those schools, which would cut our costs significantly."

Sophomore Sam Lonsdale said that he is very concerned about missing out on college visits and other opportunities that are provided by programs like Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes, which are programs that will be potentially cut.

"AVID has made me really think about applying for college, whereas before, I wasn't sure what I would do after high school," Lonsdale said. "This would be a devastating loss for the school. This is the class that was making me feel ready for what comes after high school. I can't lose AVID."

Parents have voiced their feedback to the task force through emails, online comments and at extended school board meetings, with one parent getting arrested at April's board meeting for refusing to leave the podium after her allotted speaking time. Parent of a son at Sadler Elementary and another son heavily involved in the high school robotics program Gregory Alan said that he is worried about the education of his children.

"It's ridiculous to me that both of these things are now on the chopping block," Alan said. "I seriously hope the district is searching for other cuts that could be made because as things look right now, we may not stay here. These changes will be devastating for our kids."

Other than closing elementary schools and cutting CTE and AVID programs, another potential solution was the possibility of eliminating more than 100 teacher positions, which includes 25 elementary positions and 75 middle school and high school positions.



“Since this announcement in March, there has been a dark cloud hanging over the school,” English teacher Susan Bell said. “Some of the best teachers I know are going to lose their jobs. Kids are going to lose their favorite teacher. Classes are going to get even larger. My real hope is that the state rethinks the way schools are funded in the future.”

In Texas, schools are funded based on daily average attendance, and while the Texas house passed a \$8 billion funding bill this session to increase the per-student basic allotment, the bill will have to go through the Senate and then signed by Gov. Greg Abbott before it is in action.

“Our funding from the state has not caught up with the changing education landscape and the cost of doing business,” Bruck said. “We can control only the things we can control. The change in our demographics has been one of the contributing factors for us.”

In 2018, the district’s demographers had predicted a 20% increase in district enrollment by the year 2030, but the actual enrollment numbers have declined for the past two years.

“What I’m hoping our task force will be able to accomplish is that we keep as many programs as we can,” Bruck said. “We want to keep as many schools open as we can. We want to keep as many teachers in their jobs as we can. But the reality is that we will not be able to maintain the status quo in this environment.”