

# **Open Forum to Discuss Spanish Language Instruction at BHE**

Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm  
Barton Hills Elementary Library

# Welcome

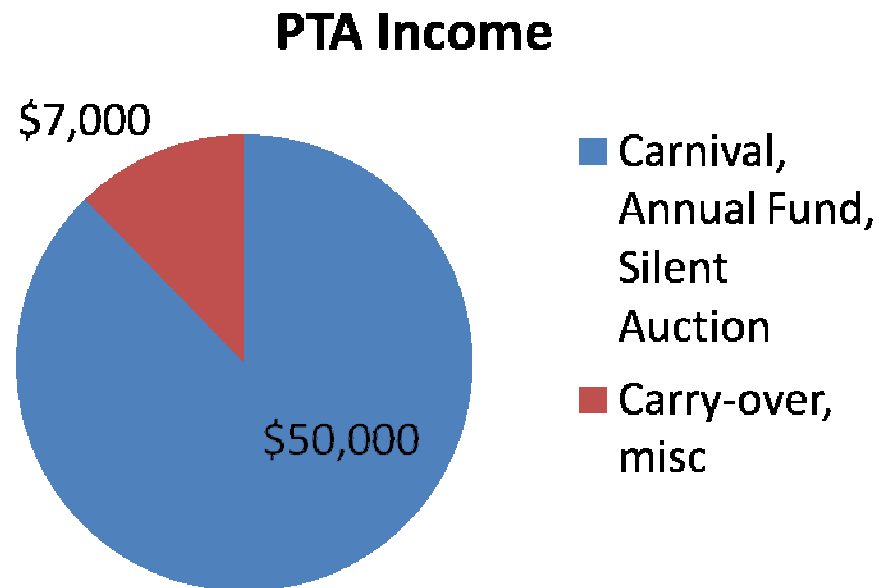
- This discussion is a response to the many comments made by BHE parents in the budget survey regarding a desire to fund a Spanish Language teacher

**PROGRAM INVESTIGATION AND  
PLANNING:  
2010–2011 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**POTENTIAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:  
2011–2012 SCHOOL YEAR.**

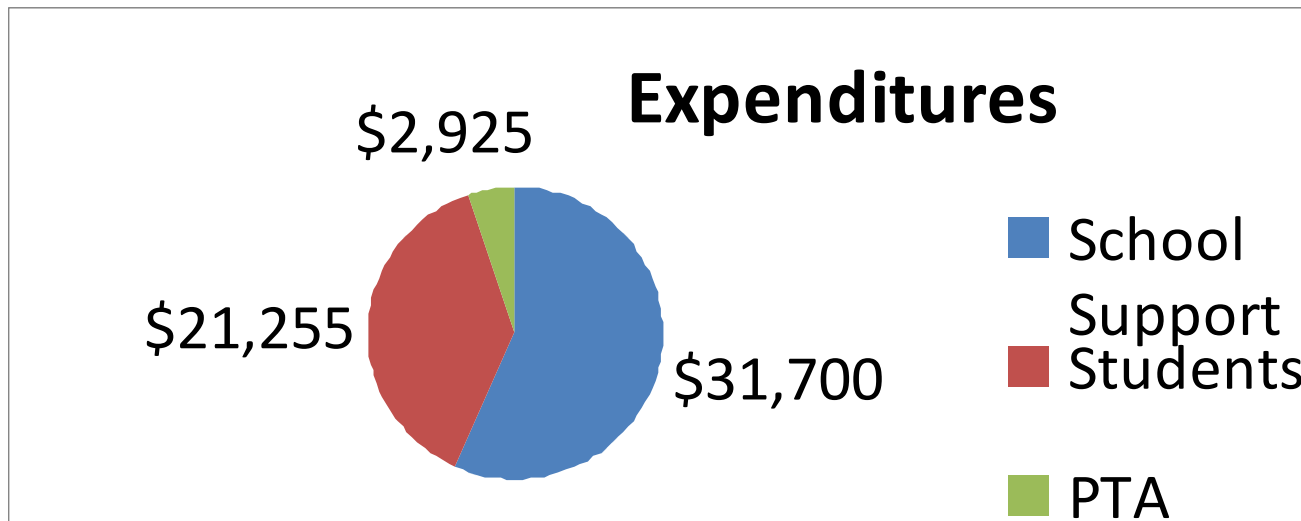
# Current PTA Budget

- Where PTA money comes from:



# Current PTA Budget

- What is PTA money spent on?



# Background

- BHE has had a Spanish program
- PTA/Parent funded
- \$100/student per year in addition to a magazine subscription fundraiser held each spring
- Provided to all students
  - 2x per week, 30 min (lower grades)
  - 1x per week, 45 min (upper grades 5/6)
- In the final year (2001-02) the teacher salary costs consumed all of the current year's parent contributions, a carry-over balance of \$3500 from the previous year and all the proceeds of a cookie dough fundraiser initially intended to fund the following year's program.
- 60% of the families contributed at least \$50 per year
- Spanish committee surveyed parents about the program at that time.

# Spanish Survey Tidbits (2002)

## Positive

- Compared favorably with private programs
- Parents with older students were able to take advantage of advanced language placement at middle school
- Parents appreciated the exposure to a second language realizing that even limited to twice-weekly classes, their children have the advantage of the enhanced cognitive development and learning skills a second language provides
- Parents appreciate the need in our community to be familiar with Spanish as a life skill.
- Availability of an after-school Spanish Club (this was a club the teacher initiated)

## Less Positive 😊

- Some parents frustrated that children with classes twice a week were not quickly becoming fluent speakers
- Inconsistent teachers
- Parents and teachers becoming aware of the increasing demands on classroom time
- Some parents wanted regular newsletters from the teacher to help them keep up with class activities and progress.
- Considerable amount of funding required

# Program Implementation Considerations

- Level of Interest from our community
  - There must be significant support
- Program Expectations
  - Common understanding of what the program is and is not
- Financial Commitment
  - Could require close to \$40,000 for salary
  - Materials would be more
  - Do we charge per child?
  - What if some families don't pay?
  - $375 \text{ kids} \times \$50.00 = \$18,750$

# Implementation Considerations Cont.

- Staffing
  - Would need to be employed through AISD and meet certain qualifications
  - Certified vs. non-certified teacher
  - What is the expectation of the classroom teacher?
- Scheduling
  - What is going to “give” during the instructional day
  - Cannot replace or be in rotation with Art, Music, PE
  - How many times per week? Should it be the same for all grade levels?

# Implementation Considerations Cont.

- Timeline
  - Do we start with the whole school?
  - Do we start with just part of the school?
- Evaluation
  - When and how do we evaluate the efficacy of the program?

# Schools with Spanish Programs

- Mills Elementary
- Bryker Woods
- Highland Park
- Casis
- Gullett
- Zilker\*

# To Do List

- Establish an Exploratory Committee committed to:
- Contact schools with programs in place
- Contact Middle School teachers to ask if they see students from Elementary programs perform better
- Surveying parents about level of interest and willingness to fund
- Exploring options for funding
- Exploring options for scheduling
- Commit to meet throughout the fall to share findings with the principal.