

Date/time : 7/1/2004 12:00:41 AM 'age 1

Article

Publication date: Apr 9, 2003

Name:

district 2 cuts -EDITEDVERSIO

Headline:

District 2

makes

more

cuts

Writer:

By BEN LEDBETTER

Item Sports Writer

Reach Sports Writer Ben Ledbetter at benltheitem.com or 803-774-1228.

Body:

Faced with a \$2.8 million shortfall in its budget for the 2003-04 school year, Sumter School District 2 will cut more sports from its athletics program. Both Lakewood and Crestwood high schools will lose their track teams, while both of Lakewood's soccer teams will be combined. Both high schools will lose their junior varsity cheerleading squads, all middle school and high school teams in the district except for baseball and softball will lose an assistant coach and Crestwood will not participate in competitive cheerleading next year.

Middle school football teams will have their schedules reduced from eight to six games and that is expected to save an estimated \$3,000, according to Superintendent Dr. Frank Baker.

"I've got \$2.8 million in cuts," he said. "I'm not limiting it to one area.

"What I've done is looked at cutting across the board. I'm not just limiting it to the classroom ranks."

Baker presented the cuts to the board of trustees at its regular meeting on Tuesday. This is the second straight year Sumter 2 has made cuts in its athletics program.

Last year the district was hit with a \$3.2 million reduction in state funding and made cuts that included the elimination of four varsity sports and several junior varsity and B teams at the two high schools.

Baker said this year's personnel cuts, which he is trying to make in different areas, should provide the most savings. "What that will do, that will save us \$90,000," he said. "That's a big chunk in personnel. That's where I'm getting my biggest amount of savings."

The cuts came out of a meeting Baker had with Crestwood athletics director Debbie Smith and Lakewood athletics director Billy Ray.

Baker said he would like to not cut any more from athletics, but he did not rule it out. "Right now I'm trying to leave it at this level in the athletics area," he said. "I left them (Smith and Ray) on notice. I might have to come back and cut again."

Both athletics directors said the cuts will impact both students and coaches. "Anytime we have to cut students from an activity, it's a concern," Smith said. "It's unfortunate to do this. I hate infringing on athletes this time. We're going to try to make it as painless as possible for the coaches who are losing assistants."

Ray said he did not know what else he could cut if another round is made. "It's going to be tough on all the kids and the coaches," Ray said. "A lot of them are getting quite a bit of supplements. They're worried about how long it's going to go on.

"I don't know what else we can cut, unless we cut the JV sports. But they have a direct impact on the revenue sports."

Ray said he felt unsure about what else could happen. "I'm just worried about what the future's going to bring us," he said.

No. of lines: 106

Column width: 1202

Format: 35 Black across 1

Archive date: Apr 16, 2003

History:

Stop editing	4/15/2003	13:24:12	BL
Start editing	4/15/2003	13:24:09	BL
Stop editing	4/14/2003	14:01:13	BL
Start editing	4/14/2003	14:01:10	BL
Stop editing	4/9/2003	17:34:48	BL
Start editing	4/9/2003	17:34:41	BL
Place on page	4/8/2003	20:52:44	MD
PlanPlaceOnPage	4/8/2003	20:48:17	MD
Link to page	4/8/2003	20:48:07	MD

MD

MD

MD

MD

MD

MD

MD

MD

MD

MD

MD

MD

Page: b1sports