Budget plan for EBR schools includes deep cuts

By CURT EYSINK
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The East Baton Rouge Parish public school system administration is proposing $7.65 million in cuts, many of them in academic programs, to balance its 1991-92 budget, Associate Superintendent Grady Hazel said.

The proposed budget, which will be considered by a School Board committee at 2 p.m. Tuesday and by the full board on Thursday, cuts 82 positions from the 6,587-employee school system.

All but two of the cuts are slated to come out of the instructional division, but Hazel said the board can avoid layoffs by not filling certain vacancies.

A slightly smaller share of the $234.45 million budget will be spent on instruction this fiscal year than last year, but Chief Accountant Charlotte Placide said that is mostly a result of increases in the board's contribution to the teachers' retirement system and increases in group insurance.

The share of the budget spent on instruction fell from 60.5 percent to 58.9 percent. The share spent on retirement, insurance and other fixed costs increased from 19.9 percent to 22.9 percent. The shares spent on transportation, business, maintenance and other areas of the budget all fell by less than 1 percent.

The areas that have been proposed for the ax were picked because they have "the least impact on instruction as possible, given that we had to cut in excess of $7.5 million," Hazel said.

The budget proposal includes nearly $2 million in cuts that are not expected to have a direct impact on instruction or students, such as cuts in board, staff and faculty travel budgets and office supplies for central office administrators.

However, it also includes $5.66 million in other measures "that will have a direct impact on instruction or things that we really did not want to do," Hazel said.

They include: