

## The Andalusia Star-News

# 15 Andalusia teachers could lose jobs

By **Kendra Bolling (Contact)** | Andalusia Star-News

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Andalusia City Schools Superintendent Dr. Beverly McAnulty estimates she will have to cut at least 15 teachers at the end of this school year.

“We’re going to lose personnel – bottom line,” she said. “We cannot employ one more person than we earn. But, everything is dependent on the education budget.”

McAnulty, like all school superintendents, is waiting on the state legislature to pass next year’s education budget before she determines just how many cuts she will have to make.

“This budget situation is as much of a crisis situation as I’ve seen,” she said.

McAnulty said the system has worked for the past three years to keep people employed, but the system cannot afford to do that in the next budget year, as the system only has reserves to last until November or December.

The current year’s prorated budget was reduced by seven teaching units, McAnulty said, which means the system is funding 18 teaching units at the local level.

McAnulty said there are currently 116 classroom teachers employed in the school system. That total doesn’t include counselors or principals.

The board of education had hoped to get an additional 3 mill ad valorem tax implemented based on its belief that a constitutional amendment passed in 2006 requiring every system in the state to receive a minimum of 10 mills of unrestricted funds should mean more money for them. When campaign literature was compiled by the state in support of the amendment in 2006, the department of education listed Andalusia among the “underfunded” systems, which would benefit from the amendment’s passage. However, after the amendment passed, Andalusia was not included among the systems the departments listed to receive an increase.

In February, the board asked the county commission for the additional funds. Commissioners voted to keep funding at current levels.

McAnulty said those additional 3 mills could have saved four jobs.

McAnulty said the system will likely have some teachers retiring, but said that doesn't necessarily mean it will help the programs.

The system has certain programs it must maintain in terms of state requirements for graduation, special education and other federal programs.

State law requires school systems to notify teachers of transfers or layoffs no later than the last day of school. McAnulty said she won't wait that long.

"That's not fair to the teachers," she said. "This is their livelihood. They need to know what's going on. It's not going to be easy. But it has to be done."

McAnulty said she will have to look at cutting both non-tenured and tenured teachers.

"We won't look at cutting all non-tenured teachers, that won't help our programs. But we have special protocol we have to go through if the teachers are tenured. Again, this isn't going to be easy, but I am committed to share those decisions with people as soon as I possibly can."

McAnulty said the system has already cut from their maintenance and transportation personnel.

"We have maximized all of our resources. We go on very few field trips, every purchase is scrutinized, we are hardly repairing anything," she said. "We haven't bought new technology in a year. But, we haven't impacted the classrooms that much. Of course, teachers didn't get supply money this year."

McAnulty said this is a stressful time on teachers and principals, as well as the central office, which is responsible for making stressful decisions.

McAnulty said ACS is doing better than more than half of the school systems in Alabama, who have resorted to lines of credit just to make ends meet from month-to-month.

"We have managed very well with what we have," she said.

"I want people to understand that nothing is certain until we get a budget."



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## Comments

Posted by **countryboy** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 6:44 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

! solution to your problem would be to cut your salary and the rest of the over paid bunch down to what you pay other workers who do the work. Ohhh...forgot you can't do that . You don't mind cutting jobs to keep your salary but you can't give up some of your overpaid salary to keep the ones working that really do the work sooo i guess ya'll can just get off your asses and do some of the work for a change.

Posted by [average\\_joe](#) (anonymous) on March 5, 2010 at 6:53 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Consolidate all the schools in the county into one system with one support system is part of the answer. Some keep saying there would be no savings, but that does not stand to reason. I believe if the schools were consolidated, then if there is a need for more money, the public would respond positively, but not as long as there are three systems.

Also, there is rumor that they are going ahead with the big "field house" project at the stadium, is that correct? If so, why do they have money for this while still threatening to lay off 15 teachers?

Posted by [thugg4life](#) (anonymous) on March 5, 2010 at 7:13 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

is this a case of issuing end of year pink slips with the thought of hiring back once the budget is passed like other systems routinely do or is this the real deal? also, will there be legal work involved in laying off tenured teachers?

Posted by [noonecares](#) (anonymous) on March 5, 2010 at 7:24 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Silly solution...cutting her salary would not even save the job of a janitor....it isn't just the salary, it's also the benefits. Don't blame the Ms. Mc for the lack of funding. Teachers make around \$30-\$45k depending on education and experience. Double that to include their benefits...so basically that job costs a minimum of \$60k to \$90k a year. So let's cut her Salary by that much to save one job...doesn't make sense. This is a state budget crisis, not an opportunity to pick on someone's because of their salary. Inflation is also killing the worth of our dollar already, making her and everyone else's salary worth even less.

As far as the field house project....that is not being funded by the school board, monetary commitments are being made by individual and corporate boosters. Ms Mac and this board are good stewards of the money they are dealt with.

Posted by [bamafootball](#) (anonymous) on March 5, 2010 at 7:29 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Ahhhh, very nice there "countryboy." But I'm sure your post will be "removed" before too long. Very nice tho!!!

Posted by [andyforlife](#) (anonymous) on March 5, 2010 at 8:39 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Noonecares: Actually the field house project would be funded by state funds. Those funds can only be used on building projects, not for salaries or other items. The Andalusia School System is now actually on the waiting list to receive those funds.

What gripes me is that the lawyer on hand could have realized they were getting screwed on the 3 mils back in 2006 when this piece of legislature passed and could have done something about it. She says it would have saved 4 jobs. But receiving the 3 mils for 4 years now could have saved all the jobs with money left over in the bank. Someone's head should roll over that one.

Posted by **andyalabama (anonymous)** on March 5, 2010 at 8:48 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Yes, very nice, about on the intelligence level with Forrest Gump.

Posted by **noonecares (anonymous)** on March 5, 2010 at 9:06 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Not sure I agree with you totally andyforlife. I do know that they are trying to have alumni, etc, make donations. Not saying you are wrong either.

Posted by **biscuitsandhoovergravy (anonymous)** on March 5, 2010 at 9:16 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Why dont these community philanthropists donate to the teachers salary fund instead of a field house or some other monument to themselves. That is if they are so concerned about the teachers and their continued employment...

Posted by **Patrick (anonymous)** on March 5, 2010 at 9:53 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Education budgets are being cut nearly nation wide. The reason for such budget problems is said to be the poor economy and increases in healthcare cost. A similar story was stated about the Georgia budget this morning on CNN. I suspect state after state will tell the same story. To fund Medicaid and health insurance for state employees, other programs must be cut or taxes raised.

The current administration is locked in political maneuvering to pass health insurance changes while what are needed are healthcare changes. Healthcare providers, with the help of their well funded lobbyist and bought and paid for politicians, have managed to avoid any meaningful changes in the healthcare system in the near future.

The federal Medicare system, state and federal Medicaid system and businesses providing health insurance for their employees will need to plan on huge increases in healthcare cost. If the federal government throws billions of additional dollars in on the demand side without price controls or additional input on the supply side, prices will rise even higher and faster. When the cost gets high enough, programs will be eliminated or pressure put on our elected representatives to do something meaningful about the costs. The end game will be the same as the end game recognized by every other modern industrial nation on earth except the USA.

Posted by **localconservative** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 10:04 a.m. (**Suggest removal**)

Biscuits, The last I checked people can donate to whatever cause they wish. The field house, while seemingly a luxury, is a cause these men are willing to put their own money out for. They have that right and their motive is not to put their names on it. I cannot begin to describe the conditions in the weight room where toilets don't work and occasionally sewage spills into the room. Until you see the conditions of this room, don't criticize someone else's intentions. If you are so successful and wish to donate to the teacher's salary fund, go right ahead. I'm sure some of these same "philanthropists" will most likely do the same.

Posted by **noonecares** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 10:15 a.m. (**Suggest removal**)

It is not the place of "these community philanthropists" to pay salaries of teachers by donation...they (and I) already do that in the form of taxation, a system for funding education, which is outdated and broke in Alabama. These are the same philanthropists that help build art centers, Habitat for Humanity houses, and other projects that are not supported by government. It is not their place to fill the gap left by inadequate general funds from the state.

Posted by **mcbryant** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 10:26 a.m. (**Suggest removal**)

I firmly believe the state of alabama needs to get the lottery. that would solve all of the education issues. i am from georgia our school systems were always well up dated and strong and sound. it's because the lottery funded the education system. it is no longer the 19th century old ways should be done away with in order to accomodate our ever changing society.

Posted by **bluecollarguy** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 11:16 a.m. (**Suggest removal**)

Ain't gonna happen...in the 'history' of the Andalusia School System there's never been a community 'threat' of a layoff of our teachers.....Andalusia will pull together just like they always have and in five years you won't even remeber her name.....

Posted by **andyforlife** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 11:34 a.m. (**Suggest removal**)

Noonecares: I agree with you that they shouldn't have to be giving to help pay the teachers' salaries so therefore they are giving to help fund the field house. And I think that is a great thing.

The gov't is the one who is in trouble and of course it directly affects the Education Budget. I know that Andalusia is not the only school system in trouble. But why haven't they recieved the 3 mils that they were supposed to be getting since 2006? This would equal up to \$1.2 million or so, according on the millage, since 2006 to present. I believe that would have paid for all 15 jobs to be kept in place for next school year.

Posted by **andyforlife** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 11:35 a.m. (**Suggest removal**)

Bluecollarguy: I agree. Andalusia will pull together to prevent this from happening. Somehow.

Posted by **noonecares** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 12:15 p.m. (**Suggest removal**)

I agree that they should be...I hope they sue the Commission and sue for the 3 mils they have not received since 2006 plus interest.

Posted by **amax** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 1:41 p.m. (**Suggest removal**)

Consolidating the county into one board of education makes too much common sense for educators to figure out. Whoever said it would not save money can't count very well. Just add up the total salaries of all the superintendents, their assistants, staff, and office expense, then compare it with ONE office, ONE superintendent, ONE small staff. No doubt there would be a very LARGE difference in cost to the county as a whole. But like I said, that's way too much common sense. Sakes alive, there could possibly be enough of a savings to ADD more teachers instead of having to cut some.

Posted by **tankmaster** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 1:48 p.m. (**Suggest removal**)

If you made these teachers punch the clock and pay them by the hour, you would probably save millions each year across the state, I know what your going to say,,,,then they will just stay late. Not if the princepal is doing his job, when 3 oclock comes hit the clock, let him enforce it. On top of that start charging 1 cent for every text message sent in this area and the schools will be millionares overnight, dont say it cant be done because it is in Chicago suburbs and it is working!

Posted by **localconservative** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 1:50 p.m. (**Suggest removal**)

amax, there is no way the administrative staff of one system can do the work of all three. Our state and federal government require too much paperwork for that to be possible. How would you like to have your workload tripled? It's easy for someone to look from the outside and formulate a plan for success. The problem with that, though, is that most people have no clue about what is required of a job until they have done it!

Posted by **noonecares** (**anonymous**) on March 5, 2010 at 1:54 p.m. (**Suggest removal**)

I don't have a problem with a feasibility study to see if consolidation is the way to go. There are always pros and cons to the idea. For one...the City of Andalusia gave the Board of Education a pot load of money for the new elementary school...the City of Opp helped finance their new elementary school...you have many issues that will arise when you have Andy-Straughn-Red-Level-Opp all under one leadership. The cities of Opp and Andalusia would want any extra funding to go to schools in their respective cities, at the same time they will still want to receive their fair share from the school board...therein lies a problem...Straughn or Pleasant Home may feel like they should get more allotment since they have no city to help subsidize needs. Consolidation sounds like a money saving option but would the full ramifications would have to be studied closely.

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