

TEXARKANA, Texas — Despite current economic conditions, the Pleasant Grove Independent School District approved 2% raises for all administration and auxiliary staff in their most recent board meeting.

With concerns of the state possibly coming in at a budget deficit because of the COVID-19 pandemic and low oil prices, announced by Texas comptroller Glenn Hegar, there have been warnings to state agencies in Texas to prepare for a decrease from five to 15% in funding during the current biennium.

According to Hegar, estimates show the deficit could reach nearly \$4.6 billion.

While the state did exempt public education from a decrease, and PGISD is confident the state will fully fund education during the 2020-21 year, they also feel it is important to take measures to prepare for any possible cuts in the future.

However, the district feels it is just as pertinent to ensure their teachers and staff are compensated for their work in difficult and confusing times, like the entire country is currently in.

"So, we felt like we needed to do something for our staff," He said. "There was never any doubt that a raise was necessary, but we feel like we needed to be kind of cautious with where we're at, with what we see coming in the future."

For this reason, they approved a 2% raise for all auxiliary employees.