

Dear Parents, Students, Community Members and Tax Payers,

We want to give you an update on our budget process for the 2010-2011 school year. In November, a letter was posted on the district website outlining the challenges we will have balancing the budget for next year. This is a challenge we are sharing with most all the districts in the state along with many entities supported by Public funding. We still face the revenue challenges of a .1% CPI, uncertainty about state funding, reduction in corporate personal property taxes, more families asking for waivers of instructional and participation fees and declining interest income. Along with the revenue challenges, we are also facing increased expenses such as contractual salary commitments to staff members and contractual obligations with yearly increases such as health insurance benefits and transportation contracts. This combination has led to an imbalance of \$680,773.00. Added to this is a projected revenue loss from the state which places the imbalance near \$800,000.00. Therefore, we must make adjustments to our spending and revenue to compensate for the imbalance.

Meetings with our employee groups, students and parents to gather ideas by which to address the shortfall have been productive. In all, well over 190 ideas for trimming our expenses or increasing revenue were presented and processed. Many of those ideas were included in our reduction plan. On December 15, administration presented to the Board of Education reductions which lead to a balanced budget for fiscal year 2011. Those recommended reductions as cited in "Board Briefs" are outlined below.

The recommendations included:

- Reduce up to two administrative positions
- Reduce up to four certified positions
- Reduce up to two support staff positions
- Reduce student assignments to the Technology Center of Dupage by 50%.
- Activities reductions
- Athletics reductions
- Reduce copies of printed newspapers
- Provide student planners to freshman students only
- Reduce Supplies by 33%

326 Joliet Street
West Chicago, IL
60185-3142
Phone (630) 876-6200
Fax (630) 876-6241
www.d94.org





Reduce purchase of Learning Resource Center books by 50%
Reduce summer curriculum writing by 50%
Eliminate lunch duty supervisors

The recommendations were received by the Board. The Board will discuss the recommended reductions at the next Board meeting on January 12, 2010. We will continue to process input regarding the budget and are committed to gathering information and assessing all options prior to making a final decision on budget reductions for next year. It is our intent to adopt a budget which is balanced and in the best interest and well being of our students, parents and staff given the current financial constraints.

Thank You,

Lalo Ponce
Superintendent

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