

## Budget Update

This is a very difficult time financially for public education. Even prior to the current economic conditions, education was not fully funded, and current conditions make it more challenging. Our goal at this point in time is to continue to serve students in the most effective and efficient way possible. We plan to minimize the impact to education and academics. To do this, we will manage the costs of operating the “district” in the most efficient ways possible, and do all that is possible to eliminate or lessen the impact of financial challenges on or in the classroom.

Our plan is to:

- Ensure that funds are used to provide programs necessary for student learning
- Ensure that budget and purchasing decisions are based on district priorities with the top priorities being the education of students, and safety and welfare of students and staff
- Ensure that purchasing decisions consider Return on Investment (ROI) to maximize the benefit of the district’s investments

We are taking proactive steps by establishing budget working sessions with administrators and the school board. These sessions include discussion on:

- Protecting the classrooms (actions that provide direct services to students and indirect services that are critical to students)
- Considering safety and welfare concerns
- Allowing school based flexibility when possible
- Being balanced in how budgets are reduced
- Moderating the impact by looking for creative budget opportunities

We would also like to thank all the staff that helped by contributing ideas and thoughts in preparation of these working session. We also encourage you, all departments and schools, to continue managing district resources to maintain quality programs and continue to consider:

- Keeping students first
- Remembering that every dollar we save this year will cushion the impact for next year
- Closely examining our expenditures on items that meet our goals and eliminating waste

Moving forward, there are multiple areas where we can make an impact. For example, we can continue to practice conservation of utilities, materials, resources, etc. We need to develop and reinforce good habits now. I realize this is a difficult time for our district and the unknown makes it more difficult each day. I appreciate all we do for our students and school community.

Our Board of Education will once again this Spring be put in a position where they need to make difficult decisions based on our recommendations. Together, we can all make a difference. I am confident that with many good minds looking at the budget, we will do the best we can to advance our effort to lead students to success with the support and involvement of families and the community and preparing them for a world yet to be imagined.