

SIP
MEMO

12/18/09



to: All Staff
from: Dr. Jill Shackelford, Superintendent of Schools
subject: Budget
date: December 18, 2009

With the holiday break almost here, I can imagine that the last thing you want to think about is the state budget crisis. At the same time, there has been a fair amount of information in the news, much of which hasn't been particularly encouraging. As frequently happens, there have been rumors about decisions being made and actions taken with regard to the budget. For this reason, I want to make sure that you understand the truth about how the state budget crisis impacts us here in KCKPS.

Earlier this month, Governor Mark Parkinson announced additional budget cuts to balance the state budget, saying that revenue was continuing to come in below projections. It is important for you to know that our Board of Education anticipated this current round of budget cuts, and factored them into the decision to raise the local mill levy. In addition, the board authorized the use of a portion of our contingency fund, so that we were able to absorb the cuts without major disruption to the system during the school year.

Obviously, the cuts the district has had to endure over the past year have had a significant impact. For example, we cut 148 positions from last year's budget. But these are unique economic times, and no individual, organization or segment of the economy has been spared. Fortunately for us, good planning by the board and administration have allowed us to get through this period, at least for now. However, it is important to understand that if we receive any additional budget cuts, we will feel the pain, as will every other school district in the state. Governor Parkinson has said that he did not want to cut education further, and I do hope that he is able to maintain that stance.

Please know that the board and the administration are working as hard as we can to make sure that this district has the resources necessary to serve the needs of our students. We met with the Wyandotte County legislative delegation last week, and were pleased with the support they expressed for education funding. They also said that it was important for legislators to hear from their constituents about education funding, and I hope you will consider contacting your own legislators to express your opinions about the state budget.

On Monday, the Board of Education held a special meeting on the budget. This was their first opportunity for in-depth conversation about the budget for next year. In that conversation, a board member asked about the potential of saving money through the outsourcing of certain district operations. Administration was directed to prepare a report for the board which analyzes the potential impact of outsourcing, including fiscal impact, impact upon current staff, impact upon the quality of services provided, and potential unintended consequences.

Administration will bring a report back to the board by the end of January. Again, no decision has been made about this issue, or about any other issue concerning next year's budget. As the process for developing next year's budget unfolds, we will communicate with you frequently, and provide opportunities for staff input.

Meanwhile, I hope that this you have a glorious holiday season with your family, friends and loved ones. I look forward to seeing you in the new year!