

I'm writing to you because you've been involved in the Bellevue School District. The State and thus the School District have reached a financial crisis. If you've read this far I'm asking for your feedback as I've been selected along with 19 other members of our community to advise the Superintendent on how we should move forward. This committee is called the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC). The School Board will be making the final decision. As a member of the committee I am providing you with some information on the upcoming 2010-2011 school year budget. We know that the current uncertainty in education budgets is hard on students, parents, and the rest of the entire community who aren't certain the programs and services they value will be offered in the coming school year. It's also hard on district staff who are worried about their colleagues and futures and about the continuation of programs and supports available for students. At the moment, we don't know the exact size of our budget next year for several reasons. The current levy renewal election passed but we won't know how much of the authorized local levy we can collect until the state settles on potential changes in the calculation of the local levy. Although we must wait until a budget is passed and signed, we do have a preliminary estimate of the decrease in state funding next year presented below. Finally, following the inflow of ARRA or fiscal stimulus funds last year, we expect a fall off in the amount of federal funding. Combined with expected cost increases we anticipate facing a significant reduction in operating resources in 2010-11 compared with 2009-2010.

Cuts are almost certain for the coming school year and these cuts will be difficult.
Impact of Governor's Proposed Changes to School Funding on Bellevue:

Loss of K-4 Class Size Funding -\$2.14
Loss of I-728 – class size and teacher development -\$1.64
Loss of 1 teacher training/ LID Day -\$0.29
Loss of Highly Capable & Middle School Vocational -\$0.22
TOTAL: -\$4.29

This -\$4.29 million equates to approximately 50 teaching staff at current salaries.

Budget Process

When the state finalizes its education budget, we will have limited time to construct a balanced budget. Therefore, we are beginning our budget process now. Our budget discussions and decisions will be driven by the district's mission and vision and guided by school and local community input. Our goal is to put together a budget that reflects our strategic priorities; we do not plan to make across-the-board cuts. I'm asking for your input in several ways. **First**, we are asking for your ideas on possible cost savings or revenue generation. **Second**, after we have put together a list of potential cost savings and revenue generating options, we will be asking for you to provide input through a survey. **Third**, we will be holding community information sessions. **Fourth**, we have convened the aforementioned Fiscal Advisory Committee which will provide recommendations to the superintendent.

What can you do now?

You can use the budget website at www.bsd405.org/2010-11Budget to do the following:

- Submit ideas on possible cost savings or revenue generation,
- Learn more about the Fiscal Advisory Committee, and
- Learn more about the budget and the budget process.

We acknowledge that Bellevue has already made budget cuts over the last several years and that this is hard on all of us. However, I hope that with your input we can put together a budget that best supports students we serve and that provides fiscal stability for the district next year and beyond.

Important time lines are listed **below**. Please pay particular attention to the three COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS mentioned. Because budget reductions will impact our entire school system, plan to attend one of three community budget meetings to hear an overview of our current financial

situation; learn where Bellevue stands compared to other school districts in terms of staffing and spending patterns; and have an opportunity to identify your priorities from among various cost savings and revenue-generation strategies.

Date	Details
March 6 or 8	Budget Survey Opens
March 11	Community Information Session, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Newport High School Library
March 18	Community Information Session, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., Sammamish High School Library
March 24	Community Information Session, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Interlake High School Library
March 25	Budget Survey Closes
April 1	Fiscal Advisory Committee deliberates and ranks Potential Budget Savings and Revenue Generation options
April 13	Board Budget Study Session
April 27	Superintendent presents preliminary budget recommendations to the School Board

It's o.k. to pay no attention to this information. IT IS NOT O.K. to rant and rave about what is decided should you elect silence.

Feel free to pass this information to anyone you please. I'm open to questions & your very important input via email or telephone.

Sincerely,
Dennis Gerlitz

dgerlitz2@comcast.net..... 425-753-8621 (cell)