

Superintendent's Response to Governor Corbett's Budget Cuts

On Tuesday, March 8th, Governor Corbett announced his plan to eliminate the State's 4.16 billion dollar deficit. His austerity plan impacts public education throughout the state. In Warren County the impact is a reduction in state education funding of approximately 4.8 million dollars.

This unprecedented cut in education funding is significantly greater than anticipated and will necessitate drastic changes in the way we educate our children. The major education reductions recommended by the Governor consist of :

- Basic Education Funding
- Dual Enrollment Grant
- Accountability Block Grant (ABG)
- Charter Schools Reimbursement
- Educational Assistance Program Grant (Tutoring)
- Authority Rental and Sinking Funding (Debt Service)

Over the past several months our administrative team has been examining our budget for expenditure reductions that will have minimal impact upon educational programs. The severity of the Governor's cuts, however, will require us to look much deeper; no idea will be off the table. I will be asking my administrative team to consider which programs will be least painful to cut, I will be asking staff to consider pay reductions, I will be asking the Board to revisit the Master Facilities Plan. We will need a long list of ideas.

I believe the identification of possible reductions should be a team approach and I propose to facilitate a team of stakeholders consisting of:

Temporary Business Administrator
New Business Administrator
Representatives of the central office directors team
Business office representative
Transportation office representative
A citizen from each attendance area

A representative from each labor group
Finance Committee Chairperson

The team will meet frequently, after hours, for the next several months to provide ideas and analysis to the Superintendent and Board as they continue in the development of the 2011-12 budget under these very challenging conditions. If the Board of Education agrees with my proposal the team will hold its first meeting _____ at 6:00pm in the central office front conference room.

Sincerely,
Dr. Robert Terrill, Superintendent