

Board of Education'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.

To make up the deficit through taxes would require a local property tax increase of approximately 12 mills. Such an enormous tax increase is both against the law (Act 1 of 2006) and unthinkable from our seats as board members, friends, and fellow citizens. We have no choice but to examine deep and unprecedented budget cuts.

In the end, the final budget decisions will be made by us Board members. To guide us, our Superintendent, Dr. Terrill, has recommended the formation of a team to brainstorm ideas. Dr. Terrill will be asking the team to help the Board study salaries, staffing, programs, athletics, contracted services, building configurations, and beyond. Dr. Terrill's suggestion is that no idea is off the table. We accept Dr. Terrill's recommendation and we commit ourselves to receive his team's suggestions with open minds and to devote the time necessary to come to grips with the new reality before us.

In a very real sense our community faces this unprecedented challenge together. The Board will work in as open a manner as possible so that we can all stay informed. On the District's website we will begin posting updates from the Superintendent and Board concerning budget developments. We will post financial information that is under review. See <http://www.wcsdpa.org/> The team assembled by Dr. Terrill will work in public sessions. And, as always, the Board's regular, special and Committee meetings will be open to the public. We will do our best to develop a level-headed solution to the sober task before us.

Sincerely,

Arthur Stewart, President; Mrs. Donna Zariczny, Vice President; John Grant; John Werner; Dr. Paul Yourchisin; J.F. Lockett; Kim Angove; Mary Anne Paris; and Tom Knapp