

March 24, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At the March 24 Board of Education meeting, programming and staffing decisions were made for the 2010-2011 school year. In making those decisions, members of the Board of Education took into consideration research on quality instruction, state and federal mandates, declining enrollment and district finances.

Next year, all four elementary schools will provide full-day kindergarten classes. Parents will still have the option of sending their children to half-day kindergarten instruction if they choose. Research has shown for years that additional support for our youngest children has a significant impact on their success in learning throughout their school career.

Also new next year, District 124 will offer technology instruction from technology teachers. In order to add technology instruction, art and music instruction will each be decreased by 25%. Next year, students will receive an average of 60 minutes of art and 60 minutes of music each week. Technology instruction will average 40 minutes per week.

The enrollment in District 124 has declined over the years while staffing has increased. For the 2010-2011 school year, the number of staff positions in both regular education and special education has been decreased to better align with enrollment, while still offering quality instruction. Eleven certified positions and eight teacher aide positions have been eliminated for next year. We are sad to lose many quality staff members.

The financial impact by making these programming and staffing decisions is \$844,133. While this decrease in expenditures is significant, it does not overcome the decreased revenues expected from the State of Illinois. The district will continue to examine all of its expenditures.

In order to provide more detailed information to the community, a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 13 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the Central Junior High Gym. At this meeting, more detailed information about programming and staffing will be presented and attendees may ask questions.

We will continue to work together as a community to provide exceptional instruction to our students while maintaining fiscally sound decisions.

Respectfully,

Diane P. Cody, Ed. D.

Superintendent