

Minutes
District Office
January 23, 2014, 2:45

Present: Patrick Bowdren, Arij Kurzum, Jill McMahon, Marco Lanzoni, Michele Moloney, Lori Mulford, Mike Murphy, Cathy Robinson, Lois Powell

- Budget and Tax Cap Update—Michele stated that we are tentatively scheduled to receive approximately \$150,000 more in State Aid according to the Governor’s proposed budget, but the CPI is going to be less than 1.5% which means that we will have to reduce the budget by more to meet the tax cap.
- Building Use and Budget Forums—Lois shared the format for both forums and a list of possible cuts that the participants will be working from for the budget forum. She explained that principals were asked to meet with individual staff members affected by the cuts today and to hold a voluntary faculty meeting on Monday to announce the full list to be discussed by the public the following night.
- St. Francis Bankruptcy—Michele indicated that we recently received two rent checks from St. Francis Hospital for the Martha Lawrence building. The checks covered a portion of the rent for December,2013 and all of January, 2014. Rent is still outstanding for the period of October 1st to November 30, 2013. Our attorney, Dan Petigrow, advised that from the time that St. Francis applied for bankruptcy up to the time that the bankruptcy is settled we should expect to receive rent checks in a timely manner. We can expect to receive checks up to and including the month of April, 2014. After that time, we have no guarantee of receiving rent payments. With respect to the rent in arrears, our attorneys advised that they will file a claim for the rent on behalf of the district as part of the bankruptcy proceedings.
- Testing/Curriculum Discussion and Changing Demographics--The conversation started by a discussion about our changing demographics. We have more students eligible for free and reduced lunch than in past years. We discussed that we may have more children who have two parents who work than in previous years. We noted that we are third highest in the County in diversity. We talked a bit about how we might help students. A Girl Scouts tutoring program was mentioned.

Cathy and Patrick shared their thoughts about the changes in the curriculum and state assessments as they pertain to the secondary level. Teachers and students at the secondary level are more accustomed to high stakes tests, and test prep is more accepted. Cathy spoke to the value of having students practice sitting for a test under the same conditions as the real test, using her SAT prep course as the example. She also spoke about the changes to the math curriculum and how students are required to be able to cite the steps they take for solving a problem. Patrick and Lois spoke to the impact state tests have on placement issues—such as AIS and accelerated courses.

Next Meeting

2:45 on Wednesday, April 9th, at District Office.