

July 9, 2009

To: Smitty

From: Monty Aldrich

THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT OFFICE...

I'm sorry that it has been a while since the last column. I kept thinking that I would wait until we heard some positive news on the state budget but I've given up on that one. We ended up being owed money like everyone else in the state at the end of our fiscal year on June 30. We still had around \$326,000 out that hopefully will come in during our upcoming fiscal year. That left our budget short at the end, and there's little hope that much of that money will eventually come our way. It changes daily but there's little movement in Springfield again until July 14. It's been a rough June and July at the district office, especially for the ladies trying to close a fiscal year without funds and start another wondering if we'll have funds coming.

I would like to share with you a list of programs and areas that are being highly considered as cuts/reductions in the coming weeks. **ADA Safety and Educational Block Grant**, Advanced Placement Classes-State Grant, After School Programs-Mentoring & Student Support, **Agriculture Education**, Arts Education & Foreign Language Assistance, Illinois Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project, Bilingual Ed. - Chicago District 299, Bilingual Ed. - Downstate - T.P.I. & T.B.E., Illinois Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, Bridges Extended Learning Opportunities, **Career & Technical Education**, Charter Schools - Transition Impact Aid, Children's Mental Health Partnership, **Driver Education**, **Early Childhood - Block Grant**, Educational Materials Center, Extended Learning-Summer Bridges, Grow Your Own Teachers, National Board Certification Initiatives, Philip J. Rock Center and School, **Principal Mentoring Program**, **Reading Improvement Block - Professional Development Set Aside**, **Reading Improvement Block Grant**, **Regional Safe Schools**, Re-Enrolling Students-Alternative Schools Network, Reorganization Incentive, **ROE School Bus Driver Training**, **ROE/ISC Operations**, **School Breakfast Incentive**, **State Free Lunch & Breakfast**, **Statewide System of Support**, Supervisory Expense, Tax Equivalent Grants, Teacher & Administrators Mentoring Program, Teach For America, Teacher of the Year, Technology for Success, Temporary Relocation Expense Fund and **Truants Alternative/Optional Education**. The items in bold highly affect our funds/programs in the district. All of this means that more local funds will have to be spent to maintain people and programs. This new budget year is starting out much like last year's around November.

Many programs and issues are still pending as we have patiently waited as long as possible to make decisions affecting the district. One major dilemma involves the Pre-K program. This is a grant-funded program that allows us to pay for a teacher and an aide, supplies, materials and transportation for students aged 3-5. Word is that this program will take a major hit so we will be down to the August board meeting in making the call as to whether this program will continue. Along with that, the Birth to 3 program is in the same boat. We may also lose certain grants that will force a trickle-down effect on staff, textbooks, etc. Our entire district staff and board members have done an excellent job this year of being cautious and conserving funds throughout this whole ordeal. I know that it is tough to hear the word "no" consistently when asking for things, but these people have understood and carried on with a great attitude in teaching kids. Everyone has played a part and has taken on more duties or will in the future to continue to conserve. I personally say "thanks" and appreciate who we have working here.

Now for registration! Through all of this depressing news with the state budget issues, we have a job to do and that is to carry on in providing an awesome educational program for kids. To do this, we will begin with registration information:

NORTH CLAY UNIT #25 REGISTRATION & SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The 2009-10 school year will begin in the North Clay Unit 25 School District on Aug. 14 & 17 with consecutive teacher institutes. Students (including kindergarten) will begin with a full day of school on Aug. 18. Pre-K classes will start with the normal scheduled times on Aug. 18 as well. North Clay Unit 25 will provide registration for all students in Pre-K through grade 12 on Tuesday, July 21, from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. (including lunch hour), and on Wednesday, July 22, from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. **The entire registration for all unit students will be held in the Commons area (new addition to the elem./jr. high building).** Parents/guardians may come to register at any time during these two days. If it is not possible to attend registration, we ask that you call or come in shortly before that time to complete registration.

All kindergarten, second and sixth graders must have a dental exam, and all kindergarten, sixth and ninth grade students must have a physical exam before school starts. In addition, kindergarten students should have a certificate of live birth and immunization records. Anyone participating in athletics and cheerleading must have a physical before practice begins.

The district has a new biometric scanning process for each student to complete at registration or before school begins. If at all possible, we ask that all parents/guardians bring their school-age children to registration to complete this process. We also have a special discounted Pre-Paid Lunch Program available at registration. If you choose to pre-pay at registration, you will be saving money that can be used elsewhere.

If you should have questions regarding registration, please contact the elementary/jr. high at 665-3393 or the high school at 665-3102 for more information.

At our July 9 board meeting, we had discussion about this coming year’s school fees. We know and understand that it’s tough right now for everyone so we decided not to increase registration fees and lunch prices for last year. What we have had to do is incorporate athletic fees and parking fees. We continue to run a deficit of around \$100,000 yearly in funding athletic programs. To offset that somewhat, we have incorporated an athletic fee. It is explained in the chart below. This is hopefully subject to change in the future if funding returns from the state. We have also assessed a parking fee for student drivers who park on campus. This will help maintain our parking lots and make repairs such as oiling/chipping, filling holes, etc.

Book Rental K-8	\$40.00	Health Care	\$37
Book Rental 9-12	\$42.00	Adult Living	\$8.75
Lunch – regular	\$1.70	Comp. I & II	\$10
Lunch – adult	\$2.00	Government Class	\$6
Head Start – lunch	\$1.95	Driver Education	\$50
Lunch – reduced	\$0.40	Keyboarding	\$10
Breakfast	\$0.85	Consumer Ed.	\$10
Breakfast – reduced	\$0.30	Accounting	\$20
Milk	\$0.25	Food Service	\$7.50
Spanish	\$10	Ag Construction	\$10
PARKING FEE (per driver)	\$10	ATHLETIC FEE (per activity per child/maximum per family-pd. in advance, no refund unless cut from team)	\$10/\$75 family
Athletic Events (tickets)	\$3 adult \$2 child		

Speaking of filling holes, I would like to personally thank the Village of Louisville employees again for taking care of our potholes and other driveway issues. It’s a constant struggle after each winter to patch and repair and they have taken that on for us. Thanks greatly!

Volunteers from our district recently participated in the School Shooting Mock Drill Incident at Flora Jr. High School. I learned many things while observing all areas of this drill, and actually saw the intensity and adrenaline of our emergency personnel and law enforcement officials. While sitting in a hallway, it was a wake up call to see our police and emergency personnel involved in this scenario. It's also a cold feeling to sit in a school building and see a SWAT team with shields, robots, high tech weapons, etc. taking over a situation. Most of these people look younger than me now and actually do risk their lives and families doing these jobs. I know we look at Clay County sometimes as "little" but our resources in the event of a crisis is actually pulled from a large area. We all know the risk of these people stopping any vehicle or dealing with a meth addict anymore, regardless of where we live. It is important that they train for these types of situation as they are the experts in taking over the situation. I do want everyone to know (and I've said this before) that we have a crisis management plan for all sorts of scenarios and all of our staff is aware. We keep this low profile and not broadcasted for obvious reasons. Unfortunately, none of us can stop any sort of terrorism but we have a responsibility to keep all others safe that we can should any incidences occur.

I think that's enough. Remember that registration is really early this time (July 21-22). We really need you to bring the students you are registering this time. Also bring phone numbers that you would like to use on our School Reach communication system for the coming year. We look forward to seeing you in the Commons during registration! Have an excellent and safe "rest of the summer".