

Dear CMSD Team,

I hope each of you have had a restful and rewarding summer. As we prepare for the opening of school, I want to personally welcome you as we open the doors to a new and exciting school year. CMSD has the best and brightest staff, thank you for your dedication to the children of Columbus. I challenge you to embrace this opportunity with renewed energy to prepare our students for success. I look forward to working with you this year as we continue to strive for excellence, together we can!

This past week, the Board of Trustees and District Leadership Team have been busy reviewing and preparing the 2011-2012 Budget. The Public Budget Hearing was held Tuesday, July 19th and I wanted to share this important information with you.

As you know, each year the school district is required to prepare an Ad Valorem Tax Request and submit it to the City of Columbus (levying authority) for funding. In these tough economic times, the district has suffered from declining revenues and increases in operational costs and debt service. With all the previous cuts and cost saving measures put in place unfortunately, additional cuts will be necessary. The Board of Trustees is committed to providing a quality education for every child while being sensitive to our community's economic environment. Please know that our Board is making informed decisions regarding efficiency in the district's budget to ensure classroom instruction is protected as much as financially feasible.

Our School Board is dedicated to the staff and students of this school district. Although we realize there is a tough financial road ahead, we can assure you that every dollar spent will be reviewed in a fair and balanced manner.

Public Hearing Budget Summary Points

1. The State and Federal Revenues net amount for the 2011-2012 Budget has decreased \$1.3 million.
2. Fringe benefits (retirement, insurance, etc.) costs have increased along with utilities, gas, and other operational expenses.
3. We have and will continue to implement energy saving initiatives.
4. Extracurricular and Support Services have experienced cuts in order to continue to maintain high quality instructional services.