



Warren Consolidated Schools

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Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.
Superintendent

June 21, 2011

Dear WCS Stakeholder,

There has been a lot of press about public school funding and the massive DISINVESTMENT some of our state elected officials have made in our children. Despite the significant loss in funding, the WCS Board of Education approved the 2011-12 Budget at their meeting last week. I am most proud of what our district has been able to preserve for our children next year.

Below is a list of areas that the district has been able to KEEP for next year:

1. No school closures.
2. Continuation of our K-12 curriculum renewal process which provides students with updated curriculum opportunities in math, science, language arts, and social studies.
3. Through our bond effort, investment of nearly \$10 million dollars in new instructional technology and computers for our kids.
4. Maintenance of our K-5 Elementary Specials (music, art, physical education, technology and world language).
5. Keeping our school counselors and other support staff to provide support for our students.
6. Maintaining full K-12 transportation for general and special education students and new bus purchases for our students to get to and from school.
7. Continued support for English Language Learners, and a full range of specialty programs such as our Macomb Math, Science, and Technology Center, WCS School of Performing Arts, and the Career Prep Center.
8. Keeping all of our current athletic and extra-curricular options available for kids.
9. Despite all of the challenges, we continue to offer a balanced Blue Ribbon product for our children.

To keep this balanced Blue Ribbon, fully-accredited educational program, the district will have to:

1. Spend about \$7-8 million dollars from our district savings account known as our fund balance.
2. Reduce our expenditures by approximately \$9 million.
3. Increase our scheduling efficiencies at the high school level, which includes reducing some course options for kids without the wholesale elimination of any curriculum wherever possible. (ex. - Auto Shop at one high school and centralizing some classes at the Career Prep Center, etc.)
4. Increase the number of students in each class in accordance with the terms of our contract agreement with the Warren Education Association. We will do everything we can to keep class counts as close as possible to the maximum number in the contract. To do this at the elementary schools, we will have to increase the number of split level classes to maximize our instructional efficiency. However, I am confident with the caliber of teachers we employ and with appropriate support for them, our students will continue to do well.
5. Eliminate our instruction to parochial schools such as St. Anne's.
6. Increase our Activity Fee to \$75 per sport at the middle school and \$100 per sport or for marching band at the high school.
7. Restructure latchkey and preschool sites.

Learn today. . . Lead tomorrow.

Warren Consolidated Schools is an equal opportunity employer.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities



NATIONAL EXEMPLARY SCHOOLS

These cost control recommendations and use of our savings account money were also recommended by the members of a special Focus Group of parents, staff members and community members. The District very much appreciates the three months of work that the group did to develop these recommendations.

As the state continues to reduce financial support for public education, conflict in our school community will increase because we now face the threat of an emergency financial manager and state takeover if we continue to deficit spend and eventually run out of money. To avoid this situation, this Board of Education must either reduce the cost or the number of employees or cut programs and services for kids. And given our budget is nearly 90% in people... people equal programs.

In the end, this Budget represents the tireless work of our entire administrative and support staff, and I would like to thank them for their work. Most important, I strongly encourage you to direct your concerns to the state legislators who represent WCS with the hope that our voices will be heard in Lansing for our children. Their contact information is available on our district website at <http://www.wcskids.net>. At this crossroad, I cannot help but feel that we are being set-up to fail, and that should concern every person in Warren Consolidated Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Livernois". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Warren Consolidated Schools