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Wayne Central School District

## LETTER to the BOARD

March 14, 2003

*"Never give up. Keep your thoughts and your mind always on the goal."*

*– Tom Bradley, American Baseball Player*

Greetings from Wayne Central School District. Below are some items of interest.

### Newsletter:

1. **Budget Workshop** – This is a reminder that we will have our first budget workshop on Tuesday, March 18 from 5:30 – 8:00. The administration has worked to develop a list of possible reductions that will bring the budget down to an 8.9% tax increase. We have divided the cuts into four areas of level I, II, III and IV. Using the criteria passed out to you at an earlier board meeting and attached to this board letter. In order to achieve an 8.9% tax rate it was necessary to make reductions of all level I items, all level II item and selected level III items.

The task was made somewhat easier through a one-time revenue plan which Greg and I developed this past week. It involves our BOCES vocational education students. As I explained to you, our BOCES numbers jumped from a traditional 40-50 students attending annually to 91 for next year. Mr. Spring is heading a task force consisting of High School administration and counselors to determine why this occurred and also to establish criteria for those students choosing to attend the BOCES program. We believe these efforts will reduce our 2004-2005 numbers back to where they traditionally have been and will have some effect on next year's attendees. We propose using a one-time revenue of the BOCES less money to offset the spike in attendance we will probably have next year. Greg and I do not normally believe that one-time revenues are appropriate sources of income as they can cause the problems experienced by the Rochester City School District of late. However, since next year's BOCES numbers will be a one-time expense, we feel comfortable paying for it with one-time revenue. I will explain this in detail at Tuesday's meeting.

2. **Four County Board Resolution** – I have written a letter to the Four County School boards explaining to them that while we have passed their proposed resolution, we have serious concerns about the effectiveness of such actions. Following the recent superintendent-board

president and vice president dinner at Four County, we had hoped there would be a more powerful action taken by our group. I will let you know when we receive a reply.

3. **Middle School Commended Student Breakfast** – This week the middle school hosted a breakfast to recognize students (and their parents) who have earned a place on the merit roll, honor roll and high honor roll as well as some “special recognition” awards. They had a tremendous turnout of 240 students over three days. The parental attendance was excellent as were the guest speakers and the event planning. The students received a certificate and a pin to wear designating them as achieving academic excellence. Thank you to Joyce Lyke who attended on behalf of the Board of Education.
  
4. **Middle School Musical** - Wayne Middle School is presenting “The Wizard of Oz” on April 4, 5 & 6. They have requested permission for a company to come in to the Auditorium and provide the means for an actor to “fly.” The contract was reviewed last week by both Bob Kelsch (auditorium manager) and Wayne VanderByl. Wayne recommended amendments to some language in the contract in regard to liability. I expressed concern to the middle school about the \$5,000 cost for the rental of the apparatus. A second company has been contacted by the middle school musical directors. This will require a new contract review and reference checks. I have some strong reservations about the funding of this project with district and/or student funds at a time when we are telling our community that we are strapped for cash. I have agreed to review the cost and information contained in this new contract and will make a decision early next week based on these factors. However, I remain unconvinced that given these difficult fiscal times, the costs are worth the benefit of having a flying student. I will keep you posted on this as more information becomes available.
  
5. **Weekend Gas Leak** - This past Saturday, there was a gas leak at the corner station (PJ’s). Don Davis responded to a call from the fire department asking for assistance with a possible evacuation. Don went to the bus garage himself and drove a bus to the Ontario Center vicinity. When he arrived, only 6 people asked to be transported. He took them to the Ontario Ambulance Hall. While there were not masses of people requesting transportation – it was a very nice effort of collaboration to assist people in need in our community. Thanks goes out to Don Davis for his efforts.
  
6. **District Wide Choral Concert** - Thursday evening the district hosted the Music in our Schools celebration with a district choral concert. They divided the evening into two parts to accommodate the large audience. The evening was well attended with an approximated 1800 people in attendance. The traffic situation was improved from last year with the break down of the performances. Of course, hosting an event of this magnitude is never going to be free of traffic woes and delays. We remain cognizant of the issue and continue to seek ways to better the situation. It was very positive for our community to see the sheer numbers of choral participants and for the children to receive such support.

7. **March 7 Conference Day** - Mr. Spring coordinated the events for the day with a focus on our new instructional model "Understanding by Design." The morning began with a time of celebrating our staff by means of peer recognition. It was very well received and the day was a productive one.

8. **Events** –

March 15 – Four County School Boards Legislative Breakfast – Club 86, Geneva - 8:15 a.m.

*Invited Guests: Senators Kuhl, Nozzolio, Volker,*

*Assemblymen Oaks, Kolb, Errigo, Bacalles*

*Please Let Lori know if you are interested in attending*

March 17 – Happy St. Patrick's Day (corned beef, cabbage and green beverages required)

March 17 – Meet the (Spring ) Coaches Meeting – HS PAC – 7:00 p.m.

March 18 & 19 – Board Budget Workshop – OE Cafeteria – 5:30–8:00

March 20 – Board Budget Workshop (if needed) – OE Cafeteria – 5:30–8:00

March 18 – District-wide Band Concert - HS PAC – 6:30 & 8:00

March 18 – Four County School Boards Steering Committee Mtg –location TBD

March 29 – Four County School Boards Prospective Board Member Seminar – Newark

April 3 – High School Talent Show – HS PAC – 7:00 ish (I will confirm time)

9. **Attachments:**

a) Criteria for Budget Reductions

## Criteria for Budget Reductions

Level I: Budget reductions which would have **no** impact on district goals or programs listed below.

Level II: Budget reductions which would have **slight** impact on district goals or programs listed below.

Level III: Budget reductions which would have **some** impact on district goals or programs listed below.

Level IV: Budget reductions which would have **significant** impact on district goals or programs listed below.

- a. District goals
  - *ELA*
  - *Math*
  - *Suspension Rate*
  - *Graduation rate*
- b. Programs with high student participation
- c. Student oriented areas vs. adult area programs
- d. Health and safety issues
- e. Clean and inviting facilities
  - *Include technology instruction and infrastructure*
- f. Maintenance of existing facilities
- g. Successful programs
- h. Programs with high cost benefit ratio
  - *Consider student/teach ratio*
- i. Programs with high community interest and support