



Superintendent's Office

To: All Mount Baker Staff
From: Richard Gantman
Date: 6/18/2009
Re: Updated Budget Development Information

Recent budget reductions have caused much uncertainty and even some turmoil. Mount Baker staff has done an excellent job staying focused on our work with students. Also, I want to personally thank staff for the hard work done to engage our challenges with an attitude of common purpose and team problem solving.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM/STAFFING CHANGES

Our strategy throughout the budget development process was to maintain the quality of our educational programs and to maintain jobs for staff. Changes that are planned for next year include: A re-focusing of the instructional coaches on the data review process, a reduction in staffing and combining of the counseling and psychologist positions, a reduction in staffing for the Highly Capable Students program, a reorganizing and rescheduling of the elementary specialists, some reductions to certificated teaching staff, classified staff and administration staffing.

STIMULUS MONEY

Federal and State guidelines are still not available. We do know that some stimulus money has been used by the State in this current fiscal year to offset part of the state's deficit. Additionally, we are fairly certain that we will receive stimulus money for the 2009-2010 year. This allocation will be in the Federal Special Education and Federal Title I categories. We can assume that all of the regulations that typically apply to these categorical funds will apply to the new allocation. Many questions about additional regulations and interpretations of existing guidelines still exist. Stimulus money is one-time-only money (possibly for one year only!) and must be used carefully to avoid an inflation/collapse scenario. Current strategies in Mount Baker are as follows:

1. Stimulus money will be used, to the fullest extent allowed by regulation, to stabilize programs and staffing by offsetting current and future budget deficits.
2. Stimulus money will be used, to the fullest extent allowed by regulation, to maintain momentum in our current school improvement efforts and to build capacity to meet future challenges.

CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT

The School Board will meet on June 25th, July 9th and 23rd to finalize the budget. Specific applications of the stimulus money will be developed in August and September when school improvement planning continues. Updates will be available on the MBSD website as additional information is available.