

January 20, 2010

**January 19, 2010 Board Forum**

Questions were asked or comments were offered by a total of 19 participants (two spoke twice) mostly parents and community, and two staff.

The general themes included:

- Concerns and questions regarding reduction of classroom staff- some examples included: timing of staff notification regarding reductions, request to rely on attrition for staff reductions, explanation about the order of staff reductions (e.g. non-tenured before tenured), offering early retirement incentives, and debate about the need or lack of need for hall monitors at the Middle School.
- Concerns and questions surrounding additional fees paid by families such as reducing the deficit by increasing fees charged to parents and concerns about those families unable to pay the fees.
- Effects of reductions on students including the districts: sole responsibility is to teach – students deserve an education, concerns about an increase in class size and the need to maintain separate gifted classes.
- Additional areas to consider for reduction such as: reducing and analyzing administrative salaries and benefit structure, refinance district debt, working to change the district's financial responsibility to Prairie Crossing Charter School, consider a tax referendum, reopening the collective bargaining agreement, and don't change bus stops following difficulties last fall.

The Board acknowledged the members of the Taskforce for their dedication and hard work. The Board appreciated the wide range of comments and suggestions offered and the opportunity to answer questions. Once the formal minutes from the forum are approved by the Board they are posted on our website. I anticipate that action occurring in early February.

Future meeting dates where the Board will continue their discussions are:

- January 21, 6:00 p.m., ESC
- January 28, 7:30 p.m., ESC
- February 4, 6:00 p.m., Intermediate
- February 11, 6:00 p.m., Intermediate
- February 25, 7:30 p.m., Intermediate