

Lake Forest School District 67

Financial Update

February 2010



A Message from the Superintendent *Dr. Harry Griffith*



If you pick up a newspaper or listen to the news you undoubtedly have noticed reports about the crisis in school funding. First and foremost, let me assure you that the Lake Forest public schools are currently in good financial standing. This is due to prudent long-range planning by our Board of Education, Finance Committee and Administration.

However, we are not without our economic challenges. With the sharp decline in interest income, impact fees, and State funding, our five-year forecast projects that we will be challenged over the next few years. As a result, we will be forced to utilize a portion of our accumulated Fund Balance and reduce expenditures.

Last spring we announced an administrative reorganization and reduction, froze all administrative salaries, trimmed support services, and consolidated positions and duties to further reduce expenditures. I have asked our administrative team to continue to analyze our budget and economize wherever possible without compromising teaching and learning. Our teachers and staff are also assisting with identifying areas for cost savings today and in the future.

District 67 has notified 61 non-tenured staff members (13 part-time and 48 full-time) of non-renewal, but the majority will be asked to return. We are well aware that this is an uncomfortable process, particularly in today's economy, but we must follow it to adhere to state and teacher contract guidelines. We need to confirm numbers of tenured staff members who are on leave, but will return to teaching, and verify enrollment for next year before we can make a final determination. We anticipate having these numbers solidified over the next few weeks.

Projections indicate our [enrollment](#) will slightly decline over the next few years. For the 2010-11 school year, we are not planning to eliminate any programs or increase class sizes.

Long-term, I am confident that we will produce a plan that protects the classroom while streamlining operations. Please be assured that the district's leadership and staff are committed to reducing expenses and doing all we can to protect our educational program. We have an outstanding team and I have great confidence in the talented individuals who bring your child's education to life.

