

Lapham Lookout Elementary

Special Edition #4
March 19, 2010

Lapham Elementary School
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Madison, WI 53703

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Principal

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Dear Parents:

This special edition newsletter contains information for parents on the impending budget cuts for next year. We want parents to have information on the effect of those cuts to our school.

For more information, parents can access information on the MMSD website. There will be a link on the main page <http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/>.

Comments to the Board of Education can be sent to board@madison.k12.wi.us. Info on two public hearings is listed below. Please do communicate your thoughts and ideas. This is very important. Also, please be sure to call me with any questions.

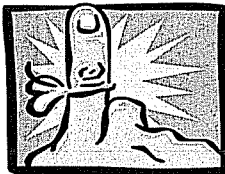
Finally, have a great Spring Break. We will see you on Tuesday, April 6th!
Mike Hertting

Public Hearings

Monday, March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the UW Space Place in Villager Mall – 2300 S. Park St.

Sunday, April 18th at 1:00 p.m. at Warner Park Community Recreation Center - 1625 Northport Dr.

Dates to Remember



Friday, March 26
March 29-April 5
Tuesday, April 6

Early Release @ 10:45 am
No School—Spring Break
Start of Fourth Quarter



Questions and Answers

What is the best way to share our opinion on proposed cuts. Speaking at the public hearings or sending an email to the Board Members are two ideas. The opinions of parents and taxpayers are very important to the Board. The Board's email is board@madison.k12.wi.us.

What cuts are proposed that will directly affect Lapham School?

- Loss of half time literacy coach who provides direct support to classrooms teachers
- Loss of half time math coach who provides direct support to classrooms teachers
- Loss of half of our Educational Assistant Hours (tutoring, office help, lunch room help)
- Loss of Library Page hours (assistance for the library)
- Increase in case load for special educators—resulting in half time loss of CC teacher.
- Loss of half time reading support position.
- Loss of 17 hours of Special Education Assistant time (supporting students in classes)

NOTE: These are all worse case scenarios which means all of the options presented to Board would be cut.

How is class size affected? Much to our surprise class size is not affected. We should see class sizes at 18 for Kindergarten and First Grade. Second grade classes will have 24 students. Please note that class size **will** be affected at both middle school and high school levels. These are desired class sizes; actual counts could be up to two students higher. Adjustments will be made after the 3rd Friday in September.

Are there other proposed cuts that less directly affect students? Yes, there are many options listed for cuts. Possible loss across MMSD of student services staff such as psychologists, social workers, and nurses. Worse case scenario has MMSD cutting over 10 custodial positions. Another cut is the majority of the paint crew. See the on-line information at www.mmsd.org for a complete list of possible cuts.

Are there any increases expected for Lapham? Actually, yes we are increasing a half time English as a Second Language Learner as we return our ELL students to Lapham. Also, we will have another section of early childhood added to Lapham.

When will the number of sections for next year be determined? We will want to have as much information as possible on how many students we are expecting before we look at how many sections we will need at each grade level. Later April or early May is when we will make a decision.

What will be the affect of the Lapham Principal also serving as the principal and supervisor for the 3rd Floor Alternatives? As you might expect it is difficult to predict the affect. One might anticipate much less visibility for the Lapham staff and students as the principal splits his time between the two programs. Very rough estimates of time range from 25 % to 40% of time spent supporting the 3rd floor students. Given the increase in staff, students and workload it is bound to affect the Lapham program. Be rest assured the Lapham principal is committed to doing the best job possible!

2010-11 Budget Issue or "How We Got Here"

The Madison School District must address for 2010-11 a \$29.8 million budget difference that is due to:

- a) a cumulative loss in state aid for public education,
- b) the normal growth of revenue for the school district within the revenue limit formula,
- c) additional revenue authority from the referendum passed in November 2008, and
- d) the revenue limit.

There are two separate parts to this budget situation. The first part is the **tax shortfall** that involves a, b and c from above. The tax shortfall is measured by the additional amount in property taxes the district will have to come up with if it is to have a same-service budget next year. This gap is \$28.6 million and has three parts:

\$9.2 million cut in state aid the MMSD sustained this year;
\$7.8 million cut in state aid the district will sustain next year;
\$11.6 million of increased costs that come with levying authority - broken out in two parts:
 \$7.6 million of increased costs in order to deliver the same services next year that the
 MMSD is delivering this year, and which the state funding formula allows;
 \$4.0 million of increased costs and with levying authority from the approved 2008 referendum
\$28.6 million Tax Shortfall Total

The second part of the budget situation (d from above) concerns the MMSD's levy authority and consists of the amount by which the district's levy authority next year will exceed its levy authority this year. These are the **revenue limit gaps** that have forced the district into cost saving measures totaling \$60 million from 1993-2009.

The MMSD projects it will need \$12.8 million more next year to provide the same level of services as this year. However, the district's increased levying authority is going up by only \$11.6 million (from Part 1 above). The difference is the \$1.2 million revenue limit gap, as it has traditionally been calculated.

Combined Parts 1 and 2	\$28.6 million tax shortfall
	<u>+\$ 1.2 million revenue limit gap</u>
	\$29.8 million budget difference

When the state reduces aid, state law allows local school boards to increase the local property tax by the amount lost in state aid. Local school boards, then, can decide to make up deficiencies through 1) cost-saving measures, 2) increased property taxes, or 3) a combination of the two.

The Board of Education directed the administration to come up with options of reductions, efficiencies and other cost-saving measures to address the \$29.8 million difference. These are the options that the Board received on March 8. The Board members will propose other options to cover the difference.

The Board is now into their process to determine which combination of cost-saving measures and increased property taxes to adopt. Their goal is to approve a budget by early May. Much more information about the budget options can be seen at www.mmsd.org

Citizens can send e-mail comments to the Board members at board@madison.k12.wi.us