

MEMORANDUM

December 3, 2008

TO: Members, Board of School Trustees
Dr. Walt Rulffes, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Joyce Haldeman

SUBJECT: Compilation of Input

You are fully aware of the decline in State revenues, leading to a decrease in funds available to support public education. In response to Governor Gibbons' request to submit an education budget for the next biennium with a 14.1% reduction, a number of activities have taken place for the purpose of soliciting input regarding budget decisions. These activities include:

- Region administrators met with Jeff Weiler, who walked them through a PowerPoint presentation detailing the essential components of the budget reduction process and requirements.
- Vegas PBS created a 15-minute DVD featuring an introduction from Dr. Rulffes and the PowerPoint presented by Jeff Weiler. Copies of the DVD were sent to all principals for their use, if desired.
- Principals were directed to hold two meetings, one with school staff and one with their parent community, to discuss the budget reductions and to solicit input from these two groups.
- Following the school meetings, principals were asked to report their findings by completing a *Zoomerang* survey.
- Community and Government Relations, with the support of Research and School Improvement, conducted a parent survey, mailed to a random sample of homes of students in the District.
- Two town hall meetings were held in November to provide an opportunity for additional input. Approximately 600 people attended the meeting at Western High School conducted by Trustee Ruth Johnson on November 18, and approximately 750 people attended the meeting at Chaparral High School conducted by Board President Mary Beth Scow on November 19. In addition to public speakers who were able to express their opinions, participants were given "ballots" so they could "vote" for programs they would like to keep and programs they recommended to be cut.

Additionally, phone calls, letters, and emails have been received by the Superintendent, Trustees, and various administrators.

This notebook is a compilation of the input received from these various sources.