

April 27, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

Tonight, the Auburn School Board approved a financial plan that authorizes program reductions and reduction in force for the 2009-10 school year. Specifically, Resolution No. 1107 authorizes the reduction of 44.7 certified FTE excluding special education, ELL, and culinary arts. Also, 26.33 certified FTE replacement contract (one year only) positions are eliminated. This totals a reduction of 71.03 certified FTE.

The above action is necessary because of the severe economic downturn across the nation and Washington State. The state's 9.3 billion dollar revenue shortfall has resulted in a decrease of 6 million dollars of revenue to the Auburn School District for the 2009-10 school year. The fiscal challenges will remain for some time since much of the state's budget is based upon federal stimulus dollars that are allocated for two years only.

In addition to a certified reduction in force, the district will need to make significant program reductions. The board identified program areas for modification including but not limited to transportation, library, health, counseling and attendance, athletics and activities, professional development, maintenance and operations, teaming time, central office, and building administration. These program modifications are necessary to mitigate the impacts that the reduction in force have on class size for the 2009-10 school year. We are cautiously optimistic that some of the certified positions may be restored through program modifications and reductions.

Throughout the budget process, the results of program priorities and the district improvement plan are a guide for these tough decisions. By working together, we will prevail during these tough economic times knowing that our children deserve our best effort despite the state's failure to support basic education. Over the next six weeks, we will need everyone's effort to modify programs that will continue to benefit students and help maintain employee jobs.

The certificated reduction in force notices by state statute must be made prior to May 15. The Human Resources Department and Superintendent will meet with the affected employees throughout the week. Your support of these dear colleagues makes a difference. The reduction in state resources are not about dollars and cents but about people. This is an extraordinary time requiring extraordinary efforts from us all.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kip Herren
Superintendent

rj