KEY MESSAGES

• The Co-Chairs’ budget means drastic cuts for schools. It is $600 million short of the $8.4 billion needed for districts to continue offering the same programs and services.

• We need our government leaders to tackle the issue of revenue reform so Oregon can pay for vital public services, including schools, today and in the future.

• The specific cuts will vary by district, but will include lost teaching jobs, reductions in school days, elimination of programs and electives, and more.

• For our district, this is what the cuts mean:
  • Elimination of <programs>
  • Elimination of <positions> - So that between this budget and 2008 we’ll have lost a total of XX positions, making classes even bigger.
  • Reduction of <X> school days - a total of XX days of school since 2008.
  • Using reserves to minimize the damage - This is a short-term solution that jeopardizes our financial stability.

• All of these cuts are on the table despite the reports that Oregon’s economy is not just in good shape, it has fully recovered from the recession.

• Oregonians consider education a top priority - but Legislature is not budgeting that way.

• The good news: it’s not too late for the Legislature address budget and revenue reform.

• Community members have greater influence than anyone else in the state!

• Emails, postcards and phone calls could turn things around. Let’s work together now.

KEY DATES

• April 30: Develop budget info to share with COSA and OSBA, including specific budget impacts at $7.8B and $8.0B. Communicate that information to your community, spread the message through traditional and social media, and contact legislators directly.

• By May 25: Engage district supervisory staff in budget-related issues, embed budget discussions in meetings, continue widespread communications efforts, monitor OSBA social media and share results and experiences with OSBA.

COMMUNICATION METHODS

• Social media: Visit OSBA’s Facebook page. Share and like posts and graphics detailing the effects of budget cuts on your students and schools. On Twitter, share OSBANews tweets and your own stories; use the hashtag #fundourschools

• In concert with your superintendent, talk with local media about the potential effects from cuts. Share those same stories with community groups and friends.

• Contact your legislators directly (see separate sheet with effective email suggestions).

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