

Council #10



CUDAHY • FRANKLIN • GREENDALE • GREENFIELD • OAK CREEK • ST. FRANCIS • SOUTH MILWAUKEE

What Now with School Budgets?

Is your district considering layoffs, program cuts and class size increases? Wondering what you can do about it? What actually happens in your district will depend very much on the outcome of the current state budget process..

At the time of publishing, the Governor and legislature are working on a solution to address another \$1.6 billion of deficit over and above the state's original projected \$6 billion deficit. They appear to be closing in on a deal that will cut state aide to schools by 2.5% and lower revenue cap increases accordingly.

With lower than expected revenue caps, districts will have fewer options to close budget holes with local property tax revenues. However, there are two areas school boards can look to in order to avoid drastic cuts to staff and educational programs.

First, all school districts carry a "Fund 10 Balance" – a reserve of cash left over after the district has paid all expenses for a year. In the 2007-2008 school year, the latest year available, districts in the Council 10 area carried substantial Fund 10 Balances:

District	Fund 10 Balance	Percent of Revenue
Cudahy	\$8,902,066	32.7%
Franklin	\$11,796,009	27.3%
Greendale	\$7,001,626	27.4%
Greenfield	\$9,189,777	32.3%
Oak Creek	\$11,680,688	22.1%
South Milwaukee	\$4,914,081	15.2%
St. Francis	\$2,556,768	20.9%

Part of the purpose of these reserves is to serve as rainy day funds for years like this one. Taking these reserves down modestly could go a long way towards avoiding drastic cuts and maintaining the quality education our districts have invested in.

Second, as we outlined in our last newsletter, districts are eligible to receive substantial federal dollars through President Obama's stimulus plan. The final numbers for each district are: Cudahy (\$949,456), Franklin (\$928,868), Greendale (\$760,349) Greenfield (\$1,021,477), Oak Creek (\$1,532,492), St. Francis (\$451,601), South Milwaukee (\$1,102,189).

Most of this money is directed to Title I and IDEA programs, but one-half of the IDEA money can be used to free up local funds to be used for other purposes. This represents significant extra cash for districts outside and above revenue caps.

The U.S. Department of Education issued guidelines for use of the federal stimulus money, the first of which directs districts to use the money to "save and create jobs."

Local associations should seriously consider meeting with their administrations and school boards to discuss how they plan to take advantage of federal monies and Fund 10 reserves. The NEA and WEAC are providing detailed guidance to UniServs to assist with having these discussions.

For questions or more details please contact either Val or Ted at the UniServ office.

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Council #10 Website
www.weac.org/council10

MAKE CONNECTIONS

Health Care Reform Town Hall
Forum, Thursday, June 25, time
and location to be determined.

Summer Academy in La Crosse,
Wisconsin, July 26 to July 29.

Great
Schools



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Another Note on the State Budget

Last November, we succeeded in electing a much more education friendly state legislature. Many legislators have let us down by their unwillingness to seek additional sources of revenue to avoid significant cuts to our state's investment in schools. However, the legislature this year **is** on the verge of passing legislation that will help achieve some of our long sought goals. These include:

- Equitable treatment for educational support staff in the Wisconsin Retirement System
- Collective Bargaining Reform that will allow us to bargain over prep time and other "education policy" issues
- An end to the QEO

Obviously, many of our major objectives like a fair school funding system and affordable healthcare for everyone are still yet to be achieved. Please let this year's accomplishments be inspiration toward further action on our part.

WEAC Summer Academy 2009

WEAC's annual Summer Academy is scheduled for July 26 – July 29, 2009, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Courses will include Bargaining A-Z; Contract Enforcement (Basic); Contract Enforcement (Advanced); Bargaining Group Benefits; Emerging Voices (for new leaders); Activists and Advocacy: Unifying Members for Action; Local Leadership Development; NBPTS Candidate Preparation. For complete information on the program and how to register, visit WEAC's website at www.weac.org.

Take a Walk on the Child's Side!

Mini Walk and Rally for School Funding Reform

Ten years ago advocates for adequate funding for schools walked 240 miles to publicize the detrimental effects of the school funding formula on Wisconsin schools. Come to Madison, **Tuesday, June 16**, to walk, rally and talk with your state legislators. Meet at the Library Mall, the 700 block of State Street at 11am. Rally on the Capitol steps at 12pm noon. We may be organizing car pools or a bus to this event. If you are interested in attending, please contact Shorty in the Council 10 office as soon as possible at (262)789-6000 or otts@weac.org.

Save the Date: Health Care Reform This Year

This year President Obama promises to pass health care reform that will allow people to keep the insurance they have if they choose, guarantee affordable coverage for everyone, allow for choice of doctor and plan, and finally put an end to health care hyperinflation. Health care reform legislation is already rapidly moving through Congress. Most of the key decisions will be made this summer. Even the insurance companies and drug companies are saying they are for reform while they busily work to shape it for their own purposes.

What will health care reform mean for you and your family? What can we do to make sure it's real reform that benefits all Americans? Can we stop the insurance companies and other profiteers from hijacking reform for their own purposes? How can we protect our own benefits now after so many years of sacrifices to keep them?

Join us at an important **Town Hall Forum** for the answers to these and many other questions. The event is scheduled for the afternoon or evening of **June 25th, 2009**, with a location to be determined. Be on the lookout for more information. For questions, contact Ted at kraigt@weac.org.