



Office of the Superintendent
Telephone: 981-1002 - Fax: 981-1094

Memo

TO: District Employees
FROM: Lynn Moody
DATE: January 21, 2010
SUBJECT: **Update on Budget Crisis**

As second semester begins and we hear conversations about funding and budgets, I want to express my thoughts about what we will all be experiencing in the coming months.

The strength of Rock Hill Schools is its people, the ones who work here and the ones we serve. So when we are faced with a financial crisis, how this will hurt our people—especially our children—is what keeps us up at night.

As it stands now, we are looking at a \$10 million deficit for next year, a deficit that will cause cuts to our expenditures that will be deep, wide, and have long-lasting, detrimental effects. Through this budgeting process people will feel de-valued, as if their life's work has not been important. It may cause us to be divided, angry, and confused. It may even make us take our eye off our true core business. It has been described as someone asking, "Do you want us to cut off your right hand or left foot?"

What's at stake? We could lose valuable people and programs. We may have to renegotiate salaries of retired employees (LOAs), eliminate some teaching and support positions, and reduce the number of days in contracts for administrators and support services. We may also have to reduce school security, and furloughs are almost certain. In addition, supplements may be cut or eliminated in some areas. The bottom line is, what we do for our children will be greatly diminished.

What can you do now?

- Register to vote. Ask candidates about their education platform and vote.
- Let us know if you plan to leave the district. An early notification may save someone's job.
- Shop and do business in Rock Hill.
- Tell everyone why public education should be the #1 priority.
- Look for cost savings, grants, volunteer resources, and just turn off the lights. Small things are important; they can empower us.
- Stay focused on your work during this process.
- Keep climbing. Our pathways to the summit have not changed.