

# SPECIAL UPDATE REGARDING BUDGET PROCESS

## Below is an Overview of the Budget Information Presented During the District's March 8, 2011 Board of Education Meeting

The Board of Education and administration continued their discussion of the 2011-2012 school budget during the District's regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, March 8. The Board members and trustees began the meeting by working to identify ways to close the gap between the rollover budget presented the previous week (which carried a \$13 million dollar spending increase, or a 10.9% tax levy increase) and the Board's goal of adopting a budget that carries an approximate 3% tax levy increase. Below is an overview of the items mentioned:

### **Increasing Fund Balance/Reserve Allocations to Increase Revenue/Decrease Taxes**

For the current budget (2010-2011) the District allocated a total of \$4.8 in fund balance and reserves to help offset expenditures. During the March 8th meeting, the Board discussed increasing this allotment. With an increase, the \$9.7 million difference between the rollover budget and a budget carrying a 3% tax levy would be reduced. Additionally, an added allocation of these funds would help to counteract the District's projected \$1.4 million loss in state aid. Equating the District's fund balance/reserves to a savings account, the Board and administration noted that while applying these funds would help increase revenue for the following year, in the future the need for alternative revenue sources would still remain. Furthermore, the Board noted that an increase in the previously discussed 3% tax levy will be considered in order to preserve the District's overall academic program.

### **Focusing on Programs, Not Percentages**

While being mindful of the cost impact a school budget has on District residents, and the realistic possibility that a property tax cap would be mandated for school districts beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the Board members stressed that they would be focusing on the total cost associated with all non-mandated programs in the District and what the impacts associated with any reduction to them could have on students. The Board will begin discussing cuts to specific programs during its next meeting.

## **Save the Date for Future Budget Meetings**

The District wishes to remind residents that, as the decisions associated with this year's budget process will be difficult ones, all members of the community are encouraged to become involved in the process by attending the Board meetings and reviewing the budget information posted to the District's website, [www.threevillagecsd.org](http://www.threevillagecsd.org).

March 15 – 8:00 p.m. at North Country

March 22 – 8:00 p.m. at North Country

March 29 – 8:00 p.m. at North Country

April 12 – 8:00 p.m. at North Country (Budget Adoption)