

# ALEXANDRIA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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TO: Alexandria Township Community Members  
FROM: Alexandria Township Board of Education  
DATE: May 28, 2010

As many of you can appreciate by now, the 2010-2011 Alexandria Township School budgeting process has been very challenging.

Subsequent to the community's vote to defeat the budget, the Alexandria Township Town Council decided that it was in the community's interest to cut an additional \$175,000 from what was the originally submitted budget, in addition to covering a \$98,000 insurance gap. This results in a total additional reduction of \$273,000 that the Board needs to cover.

Knowing the additional impact that the Township Committee cuts and the additional insurance costs would create on an already skinned down budget, the School Board attempted to avert this situation through discussions with the Alexandria Township Education Association. We asked the Association to agree to a wage freeze. This one-year freeze would have saved the district approximately \$190,000.

The Board of Education attempted to work with the Teacher's Association in a last ditch attempt to avoid any cuts in personnel, programs, or support services. As a result, the Board is now making the following cuts to meet the adjusted budget mandated by the Township Committee. These are as follows:

- 2 full time evening custodians will be replaced by 2 part-time evening custodians.
- We will not be replacing the fourth grade teacher who will be out on maternity leave. As a result, fourth grade class size will be increased to approximately 24 students.
- Our special education teaching staff will be reduced by one and one-half staff members. Our in-class support class sizes will increase, but will remain within the legal limits.
- All summer curriculum work will be done by the school administration. The budget included pay for teachers to develop curriculum-based assessment over the summer.
- The district will not have any assistant coaches for any of the sports. A cut policy will be developed to reduce the size of each team.
- Classroom supplies and textbook accounts will be reduced.

The Board of Education regrets making these cuts. However, the Board has no further choice in this matter. Although this has been a very challenging budgeting process for the 2010-2011 school year, please be assured that we will continue to do our very best to provide your children with the best possible education.