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From: Krizic, Lynn

To: Laura Kratz

Cc: Board of Ed ; Cabinet District

Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2009 2:38 PM

Subject: RE: League of Women Voters - Budget Concerns

Dear Laura,

The format of the FY10 tentative budget information presented in both July and August was different than formats used in prior years. Pat Masterton, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, is in the process of preparing budgetary documents that address many of the requests you had made in your email. It is her intent to have this information posted to the district's website by September 8th.

As you know, there was substantial time spent on the proposed tentative budget at Board meetings held in July and August. The district had displayed a variety of budgetary documents on the BoardDoc site prior to the July Board meeting. In our effort to provide all stakeholders with an opportunity to gain clarification to any question they may have had with regard to the budget, we had posted a notice on the district website encouraging individuals to submit their questions to Ms. Masterton.

Due to the number of functions and objects to be presented in the forthcoming financial documents, Ms. Masterton will not be providing an explanation for every change. In some instances the differences between the prior and upcoming year may be due to inflationary issues. However, significant changes to objects will be summarized to enable all stakeholders to understand any substantial increase and/or decrease to an object. In most instances, these significant changes will be attributed to changes in student enrollment, textbook adoptions, etc. Ms. Masterton would always be happy to answer any additional questions that may arise with regard to the budget documents.

With regard to the administrative staffing increase in the FY10 budget, the increase is due to the addition of a new administrative position. The position (Director of Assessment, Research and Quality Analysis) has not yet been filled. It is anticipated that the base salary for this position will be approximately \$120,000. The rationale for the development of this position was shared at the June Board of Education meeting. As a district that seeks to advance student achievement and effectively use data to make decisions about instructional programs/services, this new position will play a critical role in helping us meet many of the goals outlined in our strategic plan. The position as created was based in large part on models used in some of our high achieving neighboring school districts.

It is our intent to provide tentative budgetary information for next year's budget no later than June 2010. We will continue to explore budget information formats that seek to inform both the Board and the community as well as seek to have everyone be able to better understand where and why significant budgetary changes are being made. It is also

our hope that the dialogue that takes place at Board meetings is yet another vehicle in which the Board and district help to explain its priorities and challenges with regard to our fiscal health/status with our stakeholders.

As a district, we have taken a variety of steps to make our financial information accessible to the community. We were one of the first districts last year to post our bills online. The use of BoardDocs has made it possible for us to make even more information available to our valued stakeholders. Changes in the formats used to present fiscal information are not intended to keep all stakeholders from feeling welcomed into the work of the school district.

We look forward to maintaining an open dialogue with the League of Women Voters in the year ahead.

Respectfully,

Lynn S. Krizic, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205