

February 2, 2009

## **Ten Things You Should Know... About the School District's Finances**

- 1. We remain proactive to solve this financial crisis. Basic school funds from the state of Oregon will significantly be reduced due to declining enrollment and fewer tax payers contributing to the state school funds. The country, our state and community are in a serious recession.**
- 2. More workers across Oregon will be unemployed, therefore, fewer taxes will be collected to pay for services for children.**
- 3. Baker's enrollment is down by 70 students per year, and the state cut \$385,000 of revenue November 22, 2008, from the current 2008-09 budgets.**
- 4. The ending fund balance and/or carry over from the 2008-09 budgets will decline to its lowest level since 2001. This is dangerously low and most reserves have been tapped but not exhausted.**
- 5. This crisis mode will cause the district to explore several budget reduction options; (once decisions are made based on the data, all staff and their associations will be notified)**
- 6. Continue to operate the district until all resources and reserves are expended during 2009-10, then close the doors. Request a waiver for instructional time from the Oregon Department of Education. (Legal counsel will help determine what is a "0" balance and the State may consider reducing the school calendars state-wide).**
- 7. The five member school board will make the final decisions about budget reductions, hopefully, by the end of February 2009, after multiple community meetings at the schools.**
- 8. Request funds from the federal stimulus package to upgrade schools to maintain safe healthy facilities. (If the state receives bail-out funds for operational costs, the district still plans to reduce our budgets to be as efficient as possible).**
- 9. District staff will be asked to sacrifice their time to continue to develop collaborative schools, professional learning communities, improve student achievement, analyze data, plan effective interventions and create new formative assessments aligned to super standards for core curricular areas.**
- 10. At all times, make decisions based on what's in the best interests for all student.**

**Don Ulrey, Superintendent**