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March 9, 2012

All Employees
Montgomery County Schools

Dear Employees,

It is once again that time of year when we start discussing the budget. We have received no real information on the process out of Raleigh other than the Governor will push for putting that 1 cent sales tax (or some percentage of it) that was cut last year back into the budget. Governor Perdue has already stated that she will not seek re-election, so I am uncertain how all of that will play out. I am hopeful since it is a very important election year that there will be certain concessions made in increasing education funding, but we cannot be certain of that or build our initial budget around this hope.

Just like last year, a budget committee met to discuss the possible shortfalls. We will have a projected larger cut from the state and we will have exhausted all federal jobs bill dollars. Therefore, there is a large hole in the budget before we even start. I still feel it is very important to make you aware of our budget discussions and let you know where areas of possible cuts are. As in the past, we are still discussing these cuts as possible. We are also placing the possible cuts in tiers as was the case last year. I do understand that such discussions are difficult. But, please know we are once again focused on attrition as a primary method of covering our budget shortfalls. While I cannot make the promises I did last year regarding employment, maintaining people remains as our top priority. If actual cuts of people must be made, and we do not yet know if that will happen, it is our intention to let impacted staff members know in May so they have sufficient time to make arrangements for continued employment in another system. For the position moves from school to school that must be made, communication will begin when the need arises and continue throughout the summer as necessary.

Possible Cuts

Tier 1

Attrition - (resignations, retirements, other separations, \$1,399,300
consolidations* – approx. 25 positions)

Fund Balance Appropriation \$729,085

(The amount of fund balance to be used this year is projected at much less than thought so we will use it as necessary next year to maintain as many positions as possible.)

Tier 2

Assistant Principal months of employment	\$20,000
Supplemental Pay (Admin. and Teacher)	\$600,000

*Consolidations could include, but are not limited to (in no particular order):

Central Office positions

Technology Assistants

Teacher Assistants

Secretary/Administrative Assistants

Instructional Support (media, guidance)

Teaching positions (including CTE, ESL, core, art, music, other exploratory)

For clarity, a consolidation is the movement of a person from one position into another position that has been vacated or the actual assumption of duties from a position that was vacated.

Once again, I emphasize the items listed here are POSSIBLE cuts. Until we have a final budget, we will not know. Also, if we must make these cuts, particularly the supplements, these items would be the first to be replaced as additional funding becomes available. The one variable here is the final budget. It is imperative at this point that we communicate with our leaders in a professional way to let them know that any cuts to the K-12 education budget will be painful. We will provide you with contact information on our website if you are interested in participating in our grassroots “Fund Education First” campaign. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 910-576-6511 or dale.ellis@montgomery.k12.nc.us .

Sincerely,



Dale Ellis, Ed. D
Superintendent