

Cumberland Public Schools

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Achievement Matters. Collaboration Matters. Equity Matters.

DONNA A. MORELLE, ED.D.
Superintendent

March 2, 2009

Honorable Daniel J. McKee, Mayor
Town of Cumberland
Cumberland Town Hall
45 Broad Street
Cumberland, RI 02864

Re: Cumberland Public Schools Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget Proposal

Dear Mayor McKee:

On behalf of the Cumberland School Committee and the students in the Cumberland Public Schools, I present for your review and consideration the proposed FY 2010 Budget.

As always, this budget proposal is a result of a collaborative effort among administrators, teachers, parents and School Improvement Teams throughout the district. Public hearings were scheduled and held on February 14, 2009, February 17, 2009 and February 24, 2009. In a unanimous 7-0 vote, the School Committee approved the operating budget request in the amount of \$51,790,118 at a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2009.

As Superintendent of Schools, it is my ongoing belief that a school budget is a blueprint to meet the educational needs of the school district and improve learning outcomes for all students. It should likewise be the goal of every elected official in Cumberland for the Cumberland Public Schools to always be identified as a high-performing school district with a network of high performing schools. In recent state testing results, a positive trend that includes double digit increases in reading, writing and mathematics is beginning to emerge. In order to sustain the progress we have made in this regard, we must provide access to the highest quality instructional opportunities to each student who is enrolled in our schools.

Recent reports indicate that the fiscal climate in both Rhode Island and Cumberland will create obstacles to state and local support for education budgets. Notwithstanding our acknowledgement of increasing budgetary constraints, it is critical that school and town leaders advocate for the resources required to create the necessary advantages for student learning to continue to accelerate and flourish.

In that regard, it is our belief that this budget demonstrates the cumulative impact of four years of zero-based budgeting and student-based budgeting practices. As you know, zero-based budgeting practices start with an assumption that all budget requests start from a zero base and do not assume traditional incremental increases. In combination with a targeted focus on resource alignment for the advancement of student learning needs, our budgets have been impacted as follows:

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