

Opening Statement

The Board of Ed is committed to supporting the goals established in the Strategic plan while developing its budget priorities. Of course the overarching goal and the fundamental charge of the Board is that of student achievement. Regrettably many of the strategic plan goals begin to conflict with each other when structural needs such as transportation and building maintenance – basically keeping the schools up and operating, compete with staffing and employee compensation. In a very lean budget, such as this year, this conflict becomes even more pronounced.

With this in mind they set the following priorities for funding:

- Provide funding to keep the schools open and running
 - Increase costs for transportation
 - Increase cost for utilities
- Maintain employee health care at it's current level
 - Protect the quality of this important benefit in the face of rising costs
- Maintain staffing at it's current level
 - Keep grant funded special ed. positions
 - Impact directly on student achievement
 - Cutting staff exacerbates teacher workload concerns
- Provide steps and COLA for employees

These priorities are reflected in the Board's budget request and in their bargaining proposal.