

Secaucus Public Schools  
*Superintendent's Report*

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**March 12, 2010**

**Secaucus Prepares for 2010-2011 School District Budget**

As most of you know by now, New Jersey is experiencing a multi-billion dollar deficit. The Governor and the Legislature are imposing huge budget cuts in an attempt to balance the 2010-2011 budget. The State's 600+ public school districts are not immune from a series of drastic cuts that will have a chilling effect on education in New Jersey.

Fortunately, the Secaucus School District focused on a wide range of improvements to programs and support technology in last year's budget, which you supported and are currently in place. These enhancements have insured that our district is in a leadership position in Hudson County.

As we construct the 2010-2011 district budget, it clearly will not be business as usual. For the past month, a series of cuts have been imposed on all school districts. We are currently dealing with a reduction of approximately \$2,000,000 in our proposed educational budget.

We will earmark whatever funds are available to maintaining our core academic programs, our teaching and support staff, preserving reasonable class sizes, and making vital improvements to our infrastructure. This infrastructure impacts our computer network and the delivery of instruction, as well as our security systems.

At this point in time, this is a maintenance budget. If further cuts are mandated by the State, it may impact our ability to retain current programs and staff.

Whatever happens on the financial side of this equation, it is clearly a time when the entire educational community of teachers, parents, Trustees, and taxpayers need to rally together to preserve and maintain all the progress our district has made. The initial

tensions that were present in September over an administrative reorganization, new systems and methodologies in the classroom, and the resulting friction between administration and the teacher's union have been resolved. Union President Bobby Anderson and I have continued to meet and have, for the good of both teachers and students, been working cooperatively to weather the coming financial storm that will certainly wreak havoc in many of New Jersey's public schools.

Cynthia Randina  
Superintendent of Schools