

(Note: the following is an excerpt of Superintendent Howard Dulmage's report to the School Board and Community of possible cuts for the Board to consider if Issue 39 does not pass)

...Finally this evening, I would like to talk to the Board and our community about funding our schools. As anyone knows if they have been paying attention, our schools, our children, are facing drastic reductions in service (cuts) if our levy request, Issue 39, fails on November 4th.

We have known for two years that this day was coming and we have told the Midview community many times. We began making cuts in services beginning two years ago; not replacing teachers and increasing class sizes – and yes, we are increasing those numbers again this year – less individual attention to students who need help. We have changed our kindergarten to eliminate busing during the mid day saving us approximately \$135,000 last school year. Not everyone is happy with the All Day/Alternate Day Kindergarten program but we do what we must.

As diesel fuel prices continue to rise we continue to tighten the transportation system where possible by consolidating stops and asking parents on cul-de-sacs and dead end streets to walk their students to central pick up points. As of today our buses are running 137 miles LESS per day than they did last year on the same date. And when they finish working on Durkee Road and other areas where we must currently detour, we will save even more miles as well as “driver” time. One hundred and thirty seven miles savings per day translates into approximately \$80,000 a year in savings to the district.

We have reduced cleaning services in every school building, we have not purchased needed textbooks for libraries and classrooms, we have not replaced school buses when we should have done so and currently have the oldest, most costly fleet of buses in Lorain County. All of these reductions and much, much more. We have cut \$1,200,000 out of the school budget in the past two years and our Treasurer, Mr. Parsson, will happily share the list of cuts with anyone who wishes to have a copy. We HAVE tightened our belts just as every person in this community has done. This district spends less on instruction of a child than ANY SCHOOL in Lorain County – and frankly folks, that is not something to be proud of ... it's something to be ashamed of. But it is what it is in Midview.

More important, I want you to know, to be 100% assured, each and every one of the budget cuts has affected someone's child! I heard someone say “You cut over a million dollars and no one knows the difference.” Believe me; all of these reductions hurt our students, your children or their parents, grandparents or family. Larger class sizes mean that the teachers cannot get to every child's question every day; it makes a difference. Lack of textbooks makes a difference to somebody's child! Buses that are just barely running and costly to keep on the road make a huge difference to children. Too often Superintendent's will stand and tell the public that “cuts” don't hurt kids. They lie. They try to cover the truth and slide by and win political support. I cannot take that road when the truth is, “the cuts in services to Midview's children DO often make a life altering difference.”

By State law I must balance the budget I have no choice, it is required and if necessary I will balance the budget at the expense of our children; because in the end Ohio's legislators care FIRST that we have a balanced budget and SECOND that kids receive an education, an education that will give them the opportunity to succeed in our global economy. Please believe

me when I say that NO ONE is going to put the children of this community first except the people of Midview! The Midview family. The State of Ohio has no intention of helping; the Federal Government has no intent to help so in the end it's up to us, the people who live and work and send their children to the Midview Schools.

If Issue 39 does not pass on November 4th, should the community choose not to support the schools and our children, I will recommend to the Board of Education the following cuts:

- a) Reduce transportation to the State minimums – no busing of high school students to Midview or parochial schools plus no busing within a two mile radius of the Midview Schools campus.
- b) Eliminate all supplemental and coaching contracts below the 10th Grade level. This will eliminate all 7th, 8th and ninth 9th grade after school activities.
- c) I recommend a “Pay to Participate” fee of \$500 per activity for all high school activities.
- d) Elementary schools and the middle school would close one half hour after dismissal and utilities would be adjusted for maximum savings on electricity and natural gas. Except for the high school no buildings would be open on weekends.
- e) I would recommend that we cut teachers and programs and increase class sizes to the maximum allowed by law. This is not good for students but we are forced to balance the budget.
- f) I will recommend that we cut all educational tutors ... those that help children who NEED a helping hand to succeed – perhaps not your child, but someone's child who may eventually become an adult without hope ... an adult that all of us will pay for later.
- g) I will recommend that we cut our cleaning staff by at least ½ and that we clean buildings on an alternating schedule.

All of the above and MORE will be recommended depending on the size of the impending deficit. This will include further study of savings if we move to a 4 Day School Week or the closing of buildings and ½ day sessions.

I say these things to you tonight because I care about Midview. We have good kids here and good families. And you have the right to know that I am about to dismantle the school system in order to balance the budget; make Midview a place where caring parents would not want to send their children or buy a home.

Schools in Ohio have no way to adjust to inflation except to cut services to families OR to ask the community for financial help. That's the Ohio system. I don't think it's fair to moms and dads and to people who care about children ... I don't think its fair NOT to be open and honest about what I will have to do. I don't want anyone to come back two months from now and say, “You didn't tell us !!!!!”

So ladies and gentlemen, that's the situation we are facing today. It's everyone's decision and everyone bares a responsibility for the final decision. The new President is not going to help Midview. The politicians in Columbus are not going to help Midview to be a good place to live and a great place to go to school. We cannot look to others for help. The responsibility is ours, only you can help.

Thank you for your attention. I will be happy to answer any questions.