

# Ripon Area School District

Press Release  
November 3, 2008

## For Immediate Release

### **School District Seeks Public Feedback on \$475,000 in Budget Cuts**

The Ripon Area School District is faced with a projected \$475,000 budget deficit for the 2009-10 school year and is seeking public feedback on what staff and program cuts should be made to balance the budget. The public is invited to participate in two listening sessions that are part of the budgeting process.

The District is holding a series of Budget Brainstorming Sessions in November to gather suggestions on potential budget cuts. The public is invited to a special session at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, in Ripon High School room 167. This is an opportunity to provide direct input into the budgeting process for next school year.

In December the District will be holding a series of Budget Prioritizing Sessions at which time staff and community members will be invited to voice their opinions on the priority ranking for each item collected in the Budget Brainstorming Sessions. Participants will have the opportunity to submit their ideas on a budget balancing prioritization ballot. The public session is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, in Ripon High School room 167.

The District's Budget Planning Team will analyze the feedback and prepare a recommendation for the Board of Education's January 19 meeting. The Board is scheduled to act on the budget cuts at its February 16 meeting.

The \$475,000 budget cut is necessary because the cost of maintaining the District's current program next year will cost more than state revenue limits will allow. The budget was cut by \$342,000 for the current school year and by \$328,000 for the 2006-07 school year. The district is projecting a 3% increase in its revenue cap at the same time that inflationary costs are increasing operating costs by more than that amount and state law requires a minimum of a 3.8% compensation increase for staff.

"Simply put," explained Business Manager Rick Ketter, "to replicate our current operation next year will cost about \$475,000 more than state law allows us to increase our budget. The result is more permanent cuts from our operation to meet the law."

This is the fifteenth year that the state's revenue limits have placed school districts in this financial bind.

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