

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND YOUR TAX DOLLARS NOT AT WORK

1. PENNY WISE AND POUND FOOLISH SCHOOL BOARD:

School board members (Dale Barton, Tim Brake!, Joe Gore, Kim Hooper, Wayne Meehean, Mike Smith, and Shawna Smith) dictated concessions had to be at **7.5%**, which is NOT negotiating, it's drawing a line in the sand that cannot be crossed.

2. 6.4% CONCESSIONARY OFFER REJECTED BY BPS:

Teachers offered 6.4% in August (**\$1.62 MILLION**), covering 60% of the losses due to decreased State funds and lower student enrollment. Central administrators, Ted Magrum, Howard Schwager, Jonathan Wahn, and Josh Dyer (since resigned), rejected that offer on behalf of the school board, which included paying 20% of insurance premiums.

3. \$1.5 MILLION "DISAPPEARS/REAPPERS"

From official records filed by central administrators with the state, teachers know money is routinely UNDERESTIMATED by tens of thousands of dollars. **The recent audit of the BPS finances revealed that in one budget during the period of the audit, central administrators "UNDERESTIMATED" surplus money available to them by nearly \$1.5 MILLION!** Even when corrected in the next "budget", over \$675,000 was still ignored. How can ANYONE, including the BPS School Board, believe that they "MUST HAVE" 7.5% in concessions with that kind of "accounting/estimating"?

4. REMODELING:

During these times of economic hardship BPS spent money doubling the size of the office area at Douglas Road Elementary, "beautification" of flooring in two buildings (which are slippery with little footprints and filthy with defective grout), and yet will not provide the equipment needed to properly and efficiently clean the floors at Monroe Road Elementary. *Meanwhile, let's keep all the support staff too fearful of privatization to complain.*

5. TECHNOLOGY NOT PROVIDED

Teachers are expected to use multi-media resources to "engage" students, yet televisions and video players have been removed without installing overhead projectors to replace them in some buildings. However, money and labor has been available to drop everything to rewire to accommodate iPads for every building administrator (a dozen or so). What priorities does this reveal about the BPS school board and central administrators?

6. HELP FOR STUDENTS NOT A PRIORITY:

The District hired support staff for the technology team, but knowingly abandoned its commitment (as published) to the community to have tech lab assistants available to students and faculty in each building.

7. TRIMESTERS COST BPS \$1 MILLION +

Several years ago the school board (at the time) allowed administrators to convince them that trimesters were needed at the Senior High School. After seeing the concept utilized in the most costly way possible, a couple of years later a team of two teachers met with three administrators to point out what trimesters were costing (as implemented by BPS). NOTHING CHANGED for years! Now BPS is talking about returning to semesters "to save money", but chooses not to meet with the teachers' team to discuss the feasibility of such a change.

These are just a few examples of YOUR tax dollars not at work for OUR children.