



POINTS OF VIEW

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MARCH 1, 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- There will be an open gym on Friday, March 12th, from 7-9 pm. Those invited to attend are students enrolled in the 8th through the 11th grades. The activities will be organized by Mr. Pinkerman. Chaperons will be present.
- There is one more informational meetings for prospective students on March 18th. This meeting will be from 7:00-8:30 pm in the school auditorium.
- Student Led Conferences on March 25th and 26th.
- The deadline for submitting enrollment forms for the lottery is Friday, March 26th.
- Spring Break begins on Monday, March 29th and runs through Friday, April 9th
- The lottery for Compass Public Charter School is Thursday, April 22nd.

Budget Numbers for FY2011

The following article is taken from the February 25th, 2010, Idaho Statesmen and was written by Brian Murphy.

A working group of education stakeholders has reached a deal on how to give local school districts increased flexibility in the 2011 budget.

Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, said the group — which includes state superintendent Tom Luna, the Idaho Education Association, the Idaho Association of School Boards, Idaho Association of School Superintendents, the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the House and Senate education committees and the six Republican members of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee — concluded productive but sometime contentious meetings at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

The deal requires more than a dozen changes to state appropriations practices to ease legislative requirements and help districts contend with sharply reduced state funding next year. Districts have been spared cuts so far, thanks to state rainy-day funds and federal economic-stimulus money.

Even with the changes, school districts will have 15 percent less discretionary money in 2011, moving from \$356 million in 2010 to roughly \$315 million next year, said Cameron, who is cochairman of the budget committee.

Before the changes, school districts were looking at a 32 percent cut in discretionary funding, which is used primarily for utilities, health insurance and transportation.

Districts have been pleading for increased flexibility in dealing with dramatic budget cuts for 2011. The agreement still must pass through the budget writing committee and then the full Legislature. Key provisions would:

- Freeze the education and experience portions of the teacher salary grid and move \$8 to \$10 million in salary money to discretionary spending
- Eliminate the line item for school supplies and move \$4.6 million to discretionary spending
- Move the additional \$22 million approved by the Land Board for public education to discretionary spending
- Eliminate textbooks and technology line items, moving \$15.1 million to discretionary spending
- Eliminate the Safe and Drug Free Schools program line item, moving \$5.3 million to discretionary spending
- Remove \$1.4 million from transportation funding for field trips, moving it to discretionary spending
- Eliminate gifted and talented teacher training line item, moving \$1

million to discretionary spending

- Reduce transportation funding by 10 percent, moving \$7.5 million to discretionary spending
- Reduce funding for Limited English Proficiency program from \$6 million to \$4 million, moving the other \$2 million to discretionary spending
- Combine funding for ISAT remediation, the math initiative and the reading initiative and reduce it by 10 percent overall
- Either move \$1 million for early retirement program to discretionary funding or reduce the rule of 90 (age plus years of service) to 85 for the program
- Eliminate the teacher incentive award, moving roughly \$220,000 to discretionary spending
- Allow school districts to carry over unspent money in 2010 to 2011 from school supplies, gifted and talented teacher training, textbooks, technology and Safe and Drug Free Schools
- Impose some new limits on discretionary funding.

Note: On Monday, March 1st, the Joint Finance Committee will be voting on the proposed budget.

My Point of View

Hi Folks,

I know it comes as no surprise that we are facing challenging economic times. The article above lists what the Idaho education system will be facing in the next fiscal year.

I can assure you that everyone who is responsible for setting the Compass budget for next year is hard at work crunching numbers to make sure that your children will receive the quality education we have prom-

ised you.

Every portion of the budget is being examined with a fine-tooth comb. Tightening of our belts will be required but nothing will be cut that will have a negative impact on the culture that makes our school so special.

After the last Parent Information meeting I was visiting with some parents and one father told me that "you have a great thing and do not,

do not change what you are doing."

We know we have a great product and we pledge to do everything we can to make sure Compass remains the special place it is.

Yours truly, Ric

Note: There will be an emergency board meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd (the executive session will be at 6:00 pm, the public session to follow).

Interesting (Sometimes Controversial) Readings About Education

Web Articles

~College Bound? Make the Right Choices

http://www.popecenter.org/inquiry_papers/article.html?id=2231

~Why It's So Hard to Teach Students

<http://www.popecenter.org/issues/article.html?id=2038>

~Is Education Just Training?

http://www.mindingthecampus.com/originals/2010/02/is_education_just_training.html

~Wrong Answer: Drawing the Line on Homework Help

<http://blogs.wsj.com/juggle/2010/01/04/wrong-answer-drawing-the-line-on-homework-help/>

~Family: Eight essential life skills that schools can teach our kids

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/16/AR2010021605328.html>

~Diploma to Nowhere

<http://www.deltacostproject.org/resources/pdf/DiplomaToNowhere.pdf>

Recommended Books

- *Teaching With Love & Logic* by Jim Fay and David Funk
- *Mindset, The New Psychology of Success* by Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D.
- *Weapons of Mass Instruction* by John Taylor Gatto

Upcoming Events for March 2010

Monday, March 1st: Aim High and Student of the Month Assembly for February @ 7:45 am

Tuesday, March 2nd: PFA meeting @ 6:30 pm

Tuesday, March 2nd: Emergency Board meeting (executive session @ 6:00 pm, regular session to follow)

Thursday, March 11th: Board meeting @ 7:00 pm

Friday, March 19th: Shoot-a-thon/Serve-a-thon @ 5:00 pm

Friday, March 12th: Open Gym for 8-11 grades @ 7:00-9:00 pm

Thursday, March 18th: High School Informational Meeting @ 7:00-8:30 pm

This is a newsletter for those who are interested in the secondary education of **Compass Public Charter School**.

School Administrator: Mrs. Kelly Trudeau

High School Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Lisa Hamer

Student Council Sponsor: Mr. Mark Miller

Assistant Administrator: Mr. Ric Jacob

High School Career Counselor: Ms. Amanda Jacob

National Honor Society Sponsors: Ms. Linette Gregg and Mrs. Erin Gatfield

Compass Honors High School

2511 West Cherry Lane

Meridian, Idaho 83542

School Phone: (208) 855-2802

Fax: (208) 895-0197

Web Sites: <http://www.compasscharter.org> or
<http://compasshonorshigh.org/>