



Dear Mariemont City Schools Resident:

It is critically important that you are fully informed of the facts and impact of the upcoming combined bond issue/operating levy request on May 4.

You know the basics. The Mariemont Board of Education approved a combination bond issue/operating levy for the May 4 ballot in order to implement the Board-approved Master Facilities Plan and to finance continued district operations. The combined bond issue/operating levy represents new funds of 8.75 mills and will cost homeowners \$268 per year per \$100,000 of value as assigned by the County Auditor.

Now, you need to be aware of what will need to happen if the request is not successful. In the last two years, the district has already reduced its annual operating budget by \$1.8 million dollars (9% of the total budget). In making those reductions, the district has tried to impact the academic program as little as possible. If the levy is not approved by voters, an additional \$3 million dollars will need to be eliminated from the budget over the next two years. At this point, it is inevitable that additional reductions of this size will have a significant impact.

At our March 16 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved a series of budget reducing measures as recommended by our superintendent, Paul Imhoff, and our treasurer, Natalie Lucas. Phase one (roughly half of the needed \$3 million in reductions) would be implemented for the 2010-2011 school year if the May 4 levy is not successful. This will include elimination of elementary art, music, and physical education and the implementation of a full pay to participate system in the district that would cost athletes, musicians, and actors an estimated \$450 - \$1000 per high school activity. (Please refer to the resolution below for a full listing of budget reductions.)

The resolution (found below) adopted by the Board of Education details the budget reductions that will be implemented in the event the financing request is unsuccessful. We encourage you to review this report and to contact any of us or Superintendent Imhoff (pimhoff@mariemontschools.org) or Treasurer Lucas (nlucas@mariemontschools.org), 272-7500, if you have any questions or concerns.

We are confident this financing request and our district facilities plan is the most responsible action, educationally and fiscally, to ensure that Mariemont schools continue to deliver the quality education we have come to expect and on which our students and our communities depend.

Sincerely,
Your Mariemont City Schools Board of Education

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**MARIEMONT BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION FOR BUDGET REDUCTIONS
IF THE MAY 4, 2010 FINANCING REQUEST IS UNSUCCESSFUL**

BE IT RESOLVED, that if the May 4, 2010 financing request for the Mariemont City School District is unsuccessful, \$3,000,000 in budget reductions will be implemented over the next two school years. The Board directs the Superintendent and Treasurer to implement the first phase of these reductions, totaling \$1.6 million, to be effective for the 2010-2011 school year. The reductions will be as follows:

- Close Fairfax Elementary School beginning next school year (also to be implemented as part of the Facilities Master Plan)
- Defer implementation of state-mandated all day kindergarten for one year
- Eliminate all elementary art, general music, and physical education and shorten the school day for elementary students
- Eliminate one high school counselor
- Eliminate all field trips
- Eliminate one administrative position
- Implement a full pay to participate system that recovers 100% of costs for extra-curricular programs including athletics, clubs, and fine arts (an estimated \$450 - \$1000 fee per high school activity) – collaborate with athletic boosters, fine arts association, and other parents to implement system
- Freeze employee salary schedules (no increase to the state mandated salary schedule)
- Reduce transportation to state minimum – no HS transportation and K-8 transportation provided for students living two or more miles from their home school (includes private and parochial students).
- Continue to reduce or eliminate various building and district level budget items (library books, textbooks, travel, professional development, supplies, technology, etc.) and continue to explore new revenue sources

The second phase of the reductions, totaling \$1.4 million, will be identified and presented to the Board for consideration no later than February 2011. These reductions may include the elimination of approximately 13 teaching positions, 6 support positions and 2 administrative positions as well as other reductions.

Adopted by the Mariemont Board of Education, March 16, 2010