

Superintendent's message of May 31, 2019

I would like to congratulate our families celebrating Eid al Fitr (*eed al FIT-ar*) on June 4th. Our schools are closed to allow our families the opportunity to fully enjoy the holiday. **“May you be blessed with peace on Eid al Fitr and always.”** This is a lovely time of forgiveness and assistance to the less fortunate.

By regulations on May 15, the district had to present a balanced budget based on the monies that were documented and available at the time. The majority of our funds are spent on salaries. This necessitated that in order to present a balanced budget we propose the elimination of positions and a reduction in force. Hence, the notices of non-renewal were issued the week of May 15 as mandated by code not because we wanted to be insensitive. We value all our employees, as we know that everyone is working to provide the best education and care to our students.

These budgetary constraints have necessitated that we look at all the aspects of the organization and try to do more with less. Hence, a number of great ideas emerged from the process. Now, together with stakeholders with different perspective we are in the process of reviewing all these ideas to determine if they are feasible, if they will truly save us money, and most importantly will they become a positive tool in preparing ALL our students for College and Career.

As I mentioned in my announcement, we are starting to rescind non-renewals but the process will be made based on available funds and after careful review and making sure that we do not have an option that is more efficient and less costly. We need to take our time to make sure we bring back only those we need most. The reduction in funding will not end this year, for the next few years we are slated to see our funding reduced therefore it only makes sense that we review our practices and make difficult decisions.

Additionally, there has been much said on social media regarding the impact of our current budget shortfall on the services to our Students with Disability. Please know that we are committed to continuing to provide the all of the mandated services entitled to our special needs students as outlined in their IEP's. Your children's educational success continues to be one of our primary goals.

Thank you and together we can do what is best of all our students.

Franklin Walker,
Acting Superintendent