

April 8, 2016

Dear Bethany Patron,

This letter is to inform you of recent actions taken by Bethany Public Schools in response to the revenue failure and budget crisis that has resulted in a negative economic impact on state agencies. Oklahoma school districts are one of the entities unduly affected by this economic downturn. The funding reductions to schools are being described by many career educators as being "unprecedented" and "epic."

Our school district was notified in January 2016 of \$262,000 in state aid reductions. In March, the Legislature and Governor, partially restored some of the funds as a result of dipping into the state's "Rainy Day Fund." This amount equated to \$127,239 for our school district; resulting in a net deficit of almost \$135,000. The loss of funding during the school year has impacted the provision of necessary materials for our classroom instruction.

The economic forecast for the 2016-2017 school year may be even more drastic. The projected loss of revenue in our state appears to be somewhere close to \$1.3 billion less in appropriations for the upcoming fiscal year. Our district has crafted a plan to accommodate a projected further **loss of over \$700,000 for the 2016-2017 school year.** The following items are some of the areas that were presented to the BPS Board of Education on Monday, April 4th (projected savings of over \$450,000):

1. Reduce administrative, teaching and support salaries through attrition
2. Reduce or eliminate employee stipends
3. Reduce administrative and teaching salaries through Retire/Rehire program
4. Reduce summer utility costs by implementing a four day work week during summer months
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6. Reduce substitute budget
7. Reduce Child Nutrition and Custodial by one position through attrition
8. Reduce fuel/substitute costs for extracurricular activities by having the group/team pay the expenses

Our goal and desire is to protect classroom instruction and our personnel as much as possible. The future is still unclear on the amount of cuts we are facing. We are fortunate to have a healthy fund balance to provide support while we are facing these uncertain times.

The Board of Education and staff are committed to providing an excellent learning environment for our students. The BPS staff, students, and community will work together to overcome these challenging times. As always, thank you in advance for your support for BPS!

If you desire more information, please contact your child's principal or our administrative offices.

GO BRONCHOS!



Kent Shellenberger, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools