

# Dell Rapids School District

Member of North Central Association

"Home of the Quarriers"

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FROM: SUPERINTENDENT SUMMER SCHULTZ

RE: 2013-2014 DELL RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET REDUCTIONS

The financial condition of the Dell Rapids Public School District is a constant concern to the Board of Education and me. Like other districts in South Dakota, DRPS is looking at cutting our budget for the 2013-2014 school year.

Some of you are thinking, "Again?" Unfortunately, I understand this disappointment and can assure you the district is doing all it can to minimize the effects cuts will have on our students. Most of you reading this article will recollect the reductions implemented two years ago. It was at that time that school funding took a drastic hit. DRPS made reductions at this time; however, they were made with optimism that our state would restore funding within two years. Since that time, DRPS has been using capital outlay funds to supplement general fund expenditures. This is not a practice that can be sustained, and unfortunately, our funding levels are still similar to what was received during the 07-08 school year. Until funding levels are reinstated back to prior levels or a new progressive path is initiated, a pattern of reductions is difficult to steer away from.

Please don't assume I am placing blame on anyone nor do I believe schools are alone in facing a financial crunch. I feel confident that our elected officials will continue to fight for education and that someday student funding will be restored. IM15 would have granted districts like Dell Rapids some relief; however, our hopes faded when it did not pass during the election last fall. There is a possibility that this legislative session will generate additional revenue for schools. Although that would not solve all of our problems, it will mean we move closer to restoring funding and away from the new baseline that was established during the 2011-2012 school year.

The Board of Education is left with extremely difficult choices in the weeks ahead. Our financial situation will require reductions in services, programs, and personnel. At this time I am sharing a list of possible reductions. Please know that this list is not static. It was generated in collaboration with administrative recommendations and much thought has gone into its creation. The list does not include a variety of areas that are constantly being looked at including, but not limited to, transportation, facility equipment and services, and CTE.

Finally, the Board of Education will be making the majority of their staffing decisions during the March board meetings. Although we may not have official word from the legislative session, this is necessary to abide by negotiated timelines for teacher notification.

If you have any questions or would like to share your concerns, please feel free to call or email me. You may contact my office at 428-5473.

**THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE BEING PROPOSED FOR BUDGET REDUCTIONS:**

District wide: Webmaster

District wide: Nursing

District wide: Administrative & Support Services Restructuring

District wide: Counseling

High School: Restructure Alternative Learning Center

High School: FACS/FCCLA Program

Middle School: 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Instructor (.5)

Elementary: Computer Instructor

**Our Mission:**

**“We promote spirited thinking, responsible citizenship and lifelong learning”**