

Citizens for Accountability

January 23, 2012

Scott B. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools

Joseph M. Kiszka Educational Service Center
580 N. 1st Bank Drive
Palatine IL 60067-8110

Subject: Recommendations for Addressing 2012-2013 Budget
Deficit and the District's Long-Term Structural Budget
Deficit

Dear Superintendent Thompson,

It gives us pleasure to commend the Administration of District 15 for opening up the budgeting discussion to the public. Citizens for Accountability in District 15 have long advocated for greater discourse with the community. The Administration, under your leadership, has made great strides in facilitating open forums so now it is up to us, parents with children in the schools as well as the community at large, to utilize this open door.

We have closely examined the preliminary budget for 2012-13 which has spending exceeding revenues by \$9.6 million. The forecast for the following four years is for continued deficit budgets which will shrink our reserves from \$55 million to about \$4 million by 2016. Obviously, decisions must be made and steps must be taken to address this crisis.

In response to this dire situation, we have spent many hours analyzing the finances and constructing the attached list of detailed recommendations. If these are implemented, it would begin the process of matching expenditures to our revenue stream while also *retaining the current teaching staff level, educational programs and current classroom sizes*. We have also included recommendations which will bend the spending curve back into line with revenue over the long term.

We realize one or more of the recommendations could be controversial. However, we believe strongly they must be put on the table and given serious consideration if the quality of our school district is to be upheld. If they are not considered, we fear what that could mean for the positive direction the district is heading and, most importantly, for the education of the community's children. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Citizens for Accountability in District 15

Executive Committee

Joe Heater	Jennifer Zold
Scott Lindstrom	Mary Vanek
Vicki Wilson	

cc: District 15 Board of Education