



NEWS RELEASE

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Waterford School District Bargaining Units Ratify Contracts *2010-2011 Budget is Balanced Offering Full Programming to Students and Community*

April 23, 2010 Waterford, Mich. –Waterford School District Bargaining Units including Waterford Education Association (teachers), Michigan Educational Support Professional Association (MESPA I Secretaries, MESPA II Instructional Aides and Library Technicians, and MESPA III Cafeteria, Custodians, Maintenance, and Transportation) have ratified contracts effective July 1, 2010, which includes a 2% wage reduction. The agreement has not only been reached with the represented District employees, but also nonaffiliated employees, administrators, and third-party employees.

The agreements allow the District to retain full programming for students and full employment for employees who provide these educational opportunities to our students and community. The Waterford School District was facing a \$7.5 million dollar budget shortfall for the 2010-2011 school year. The three keys area that contributed to the development of a balanced budget were:

- 2% wage reduction saving \$1.8 million
- Facility Utilization Study saving \$1.6 million
 - Repurposing of Crary Middle School
 - Accepting existing programs from Manley Campus, Lutes Campus, and Covert Center
 - Repurposing Grayson Elementary
 - Becoming Mason Middle School Sixth Grade Center

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- Closing Manley Campus
- Closing Lutes Campus
- Repurposing Covert Center
- Realigning school boundaries
- Fund balance contribution of \$2.6 million
 - Undesignated fund balance
 - Designated foundation reserve

Additional factors include a savings of \$1.5 million:

- Use of Federal stimulus dollars
- Staff retirement savings
- Staffing adjustment due to enrollment

"I'm extraordinarily pleased that not only do we have a balanced budget for 2010-2011, but can continue our focus on what's best for our students. I would like to acknowledge and thank our employees for the leadership and dedication they exhibited to reach these agreements. Without their continued involvement, our District, over the last several years, would not have been able to successfully continue and expand programming for our students and community while facing the new economic realities that all Districts face throughout Michigan," says Thomas Wiseman, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Human Services.

"The sacrifices made by employees are not easy but in these difficult financial times, we are extremely proud of the work we have accomplished together to maintain full programming and staffing. The outcome is in the best interest of Waterford students in this community", says Marcy Felegy, MEA UniServ Director.

The Waterford Board of Education will be provided the bargaining unit contracts and take action on May 6, 2010. On May 20, 2010, a budget resolution information item will be presented to the Board. At the June 3, 2010 Waterford Board of Education Meeting, a public hearing regarding the budget will be held and the Board will take subsequent action.

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