

BOE
March 2009

Good evening President VanOrman, Members of the Board, and Superintendent Achramovitch

During previous BOE meetings several reasonable and viable suggestions have been made of where the District can cut costs as alternatives to staff layoffs. AGCEP urges the Board to examine those suggested alternatives so that the direct academic impact for students is minimized. Cutting administrative and overhead costs will enhance services that benefit the students or at the very least help students not feel the difference.

A request from the State Education Department was sent to superintendents stating that the federal stimulus funding for education, including so-called "stabilization funds," IDEA and Title I, is meant to help school districts avoid layoffs. As stated in this morning's Democrat and Chronicle the stimulus will be distributed through September 2010. That will assure the District time to consider the changes that need to be made to establish long term economically responsible budgets for the future.

How well attended will informational meetings for the budget that are scheduled for April and May be? Past experience shows that only those already involved will attend those meetings. How will you get the information to district residents and encourage them to participate in the budget process? The Board of Education must ask our community if they want to support school district employees that will continue to help contribute to the economy or support the unemployment lines where many of them will be forced to go until they can get another position.

AGCEP is relying on the current Board of Education and the Superintendent's staff to make sound decisions on the future of the educational foundation for the Greece Central School District.