

BOE January 2009

Good evening

The Governor is urging excellent education while cutting financial support for New York's school districts and community colleges. This will bring devastating results to the budget for the Greece School District. The governor is aware of the need to create jobs, yet the cuts he is suggesting are jeopardizing the jobs and programs in education that are vital to provide the excellent education he is urging.

The residents of the Greece community and the employees of the District need to contact the local legislators to let them know that their representation for our community is essential. The suggested property tax cap for the District will only harm the middle class by costing the taxpayers more. We need them to urge the Governor to work with President-elect Obama and support swift passage of the proposed stimulus package that will provide economic recovery and creation of jobs. The aid that New York State receives from the federal package will help relieve the stress on the school districts.

The local economy is supported by the jobs in this community. The employees of the Greece School District will be the stimulus for the future of the school district and for the Rochester area. The employees who have continued employment in the school district will prevent more of the state and federal government funding going to those who need financial support, leaving more to put into the

educational programs that are vital to sustaining excellent educational opportunities.

I would like to suggest and encourage our administration to examine areas carefully when they consider what will be cut from the Greece School budget. They should talk to the employees that are working directly with students in the schools each day and listen to what they know. Before you decide to cut a position take the time to really understand the educational impact of that decision. Think about how that decision will impact learning opportunities for students in our schools. All of us, working together, can help devise the most reasonable and effective budget for the education of our students. Input from those who provide daily instruction to a student's education will show that the District values those who are making investments in the academic success of Greece's students.

As the Superintendent's staff and the Board of Education reviews the budget proposal, AGCEP asks that you keep in mind the fundamental resources for the student's support – the school staff. Any program or resource that is provided for students is useless without the staff to support it. Now is the time when we need to make changes that not only benefit the school district but also the Greece community.