

[E-mail sent to parents 7/16/13]

July 16, 2013

Dear Parents:

I hope you and your family are having a wonderful summer.

As you know, the district and the state have been facing financial challenges over the past several years. In the fall of 2012, the Horseheads Board of Education created a timeline and steps to study the district's facilities use and grade configuration. The board directed two consultants – Dr. Paul Seversky and Hunt Engineers, Architects, and Land Surveyors – to study district demographics and operations from top to bottom and report back to the board their recommendations for reducing costs significantly. The consultants presented their report – which included 13 recommendations – at the July 11 board meeting.

Since 2008, we have eliminated approximately 20% of our workforce - which equates to 146 positions - and used millions from reserves. In the upcoming school year alone we have appropriated \$6 million from reserves to balance the budget. This is not a long term solution. We know that we can't tax our way out of deficits or cut hundreds more positions. Therefore, it is necessary that we examine our facility utilization and grade configuration. This is what this study does.

The board will spend a full day in August examining each recommendation. They'll then decide how they want to proceed, and whether that includes forming task forces or focus groups to look at the study.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the study and recommendations, or visit the district's website at [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com) and click on the blue "Program/Facility Study" button to the right of the page.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Superintendent Ralph Marino, Jr