



South Fayette School District

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Media Release

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South Fayette Middle School Sports Added Back to District Budget

South Fayette Township, PA – At the Committee Meeting of the Board of School Directors, the South Fayette School Board directed the Administration to add the Middle School Sports Program back into the 2008-2009 Preliminary Budget. In doing so, the Board also directed the Director of Finance George Safin to apply for the necessary exceptions that would allow the Board to raise millage more than the 1.18 mills allowable through Act 1 to pay for the program.

At the November 20 meeting of the South Fayette School Board of School Directors, the Proposed Preliminary District Operating Budget was presented for the 2008-2009 school year. Initial expenditures outlined by the building principals and department heads that would be necessary to continue the educational standards of the District and programs as they currently exist would have resulted in a more than \$3.4 million deficit based on current revenue estimates for 2008-2009. To achieve a balanced budget, a combination of a tax increase, spending cuts and revenue-generating ideas were presented.

A list of more than 65 items that could be removed from the budget was presented along with the resulting consequences to students, the curriculum and the long-term budget. Included among these items were eight proposed new teaching positions, a school psychologist, band instruments, standardized testing (other than the PSSA which is at no cost to the District), after-school activity busses, 2 new busses, field trips (other than competitions), mobile carts and new computers for students and staff (part of standard rotation to keep updated and working technology in the District), all athletic uniforms scheduled to be replaced as part of the standard rotation, library books, the District contribution to the spring musical performance, weight equipment, classroom furniture to outfit new classrooms needed in the middle school and elementary, and the elimination of the Middle School Athletic Program.

The Board of School Directors must adopt a Preliminary Budget at the January 22 meeting, followed by the Proposed Final Budget at the May 20 meeting. A balanced 2008-2009 Final Budget must be passed by the Board before June 30, 2008. Each month, the budget will be listed as a discussion item on the Board agenda. Meetings of the Board of School Directors take place on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. in the High School Conference Center. Community members may also submit questions or suggestions regarding the budget to District by sending an e-mail to budget@southfayette.org.

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