

# Board of Education Rejects Proposed 2010-11 Budget

April 1, 2010

Last night the Paterson Board of Education, by a unanimous vote, rejected the proposed 2010-11 budget. Urged on by statements by many members of the audience and P.E.A. President Pete Tirri each Board member expressed their concern that the proposed budget, containing over \$22 million in state aid reductions made by Governor Christie, would decimate the educational program.

The Association expects that Superintendent Evans will veto the Board's vote and submit the budget without their approval. As you know, the State District Superintendent has veto power over the Board and is required to submit a balanced budget to the Commissioner of Education.

Rumors about what reductions are contained in the budget have run rampant in the District. The Superintendent and Board did not answer questions as to any specific reductions in the proposal. P.E.A. will continue to demand an accounting of all staff and educational reductions. In the meantime, we cannot answer many questions being raised by staff because we simply have not been provided with any specifics.

The reduction of staff is not a simple process. It is clear that under New Jersey law, non-tenured staff have no seniority rights whatsoever. A third year teacher has no more seniority that someone hired yesterday.

P.E.A. believes that tenured staff members have seniority rights, including so called "Bumping" rights if they have served in other positions within the District (we will seek further clarification from NJEA about this). The process of reducing staff is going to be extremely complex and we will need cooperation from all affected staff if the budget reductions occur.

**In the meantime, we must reluctantly suggest that all non-tenured staff get their resume together and begin the process of applying to other districts. From our perspective, the worst thing that can happen is that you are offered another job and are called back by Paterson, requiring you to make a decision about where you want to be.**

This is just one of many issues we face in the District. P.E.A. will try to keep you informed on all of them as we all work through the disaster created by Governor Christie.

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