

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 4, 2010

The United Teachers Association of Center Grove will be providing suggestions to the Center Grove Community School Board of Trustees regarding line items in the school's 43 million dollar budget that could be eliminated without disrupting service to students in the classroom.

Over the weekend, the teacher's association leadership met for several hours to discuss the Board of Trustees decision to vote against a recent tentative settlement and solidify the suggestions that would be made to the Board. Christopher Pratt, President of UTACG said, "Because the Association has been warning the district's administration for nearly a year of potential financial shortfalls in a variety of meetings, it was a matter of pulling those suggestions into one document. We still have some work to do on the document. Members of our Leadership Council are working on it for the school board's review as soon as possible."

While specifics will be forthcoming, the Association will make clear that financial cutbacks should come from administrative personnel and the \$1.00 health insurance benefit most administrators receive, travel budgets for administrators, all consulting services, such as the service of Dr. Lippe who arrived last Tuesday to conduct another work session for the Board's Retreat after the board voted down the contract, and professional dues and fees paid for select members of the administrative staff. "There are, of course more areas that can and should be cut before ever considering eliminating further teaching staff from the classroom. We will focus on the items that maintain the delivery of quality instruction to students." Pratt said. The Association also plans to move ahead with plans to form a Legislative Action Group comprised of teachers and parents who will make personal contact with legislators and inform them of the importance of funding K-12 public education.

Teachers will return to school Monday for Records Day, a day utilized to finalize grades and prepare for the second semester. The Leadership of UTACG has officially asked teachers to voluntarily work only their contractual hours and to fulfill the activities that appear on their status quo contracts. "Our teachers have given countless hours of extra personal time to students, their parents, and this school district. Ordinarily, teachers work far more than an eight hour day. If the board is unwilling to recognize the extra time put in by its teachers, we suggest teachers work their eight hour day, no more, no less." Pratt commented regarding the job action beginning Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Representatives of the teachers bargaining team report they have not yet heard from the Board or its team about a time to re-start negotiations regarding the failed contract. “It was our understanding that the board would be in touch with a date to begin negotiations, since they voted down the contract and requested the teams return to the bargaining table last Tuesday (Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>), it has been nearly a week and we have yet to hear from anyone.” Judie Edwards, ISTA UniServ Director said. “We are ready to return to the table when they are.”

Any questions should be directed to Christopher Pratt, the President of the United Teachers Association of Center Grove at [prattc@centergrove.k12.in.us](mailto:prattc@centergrove.k12.in.us), [cdp1977@att.net](mailto:cdp1977@att.net), or by cell phone at 317-908-5747.