

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2010

The United Teachers Association of Center Grove will be making public the recommendations that it made to Administration and members of the School Board of Trustees on January 14, as well as a review of the corporation's expenditure claims for the past year- a review of what the Association terms, "The Pennies." Specific details will be posted on the Association website [www.UTACG.org] and released to members at 3:00 pm today, Thursday, January 21, 2010.

Developments late today seem to indicate movement away from staff reductions that will eliminate or greatly reduce programming for thousands of students in the district. The Association believes this to be a step in the right direction, but much work remains. The Association is also pleased the Finance Committee will be discussing the option of an early retirement buyout for veteran teachers. The cost-out of this buyout will potentially bring significant savings that would otherwise come from classroom staff reductions.

The UTACG Bargaining Team was in discussion with members of the administration and Board for nearly four hours yesterday, Wednesday, January 20, 2010. In that meeting the Association made clear that many items listed on its version of "Possible Reductions" were *not* suggestions made by the Association and are not represented in actual dollars in a way transparent to members of the public.

"Our students deserve the best and that is exactly what we all need to work toward when reviewing any cuts in our budget that involve programming for the children in our district. New programs for a limited few that will adversely affect the General Fund at the expense of established programs that service thousands of students are terribly wrong. I think the public should ask the hard questions and expect accurate and transparent answers from this district's administration," UTACG President, Christopher Pratt said Thursday.

Judie Edwards, ISTA UniServ Director commented, "We will have hard decisions to make on budget cuts and I firmly believe that the farther away from the classroom that these cuts are made the better for our students."

For further questions, please contact Christopher Pratt, UTACG President at cdp1977@att.net; prattc@centergrove.k12.in.us or at 317-908-5747.

Reductions proposed by UTACG on January 14, 2009:

Administrative Health Benefits: \$235,000

ARRA Funds re-allocation of unspent funds: \$438,512 in Special Education; \$544,099.66 in MoE

Dues/Fees: \$47,600

Gas and Lubricant \$3,000

Miscellaneous: \$44,200

NTHS/EC/SLC's: \$345,000+

Periodicals @ ESB: \$3,500

Administrative Personnel Reductions: \$892,434

Professional Development/Consultation Services: \$121,000

Special Ed. Co-op: Review expenditures (\$156,000)

CIESC: Review Expenditures (\$37,000)

Suspend out of District Travel \$38,600

Total Reductions: \$2,905,945.60

Additional considerations the Association would support from Administration proposals:

Energy Saving Measures: \$90,000

Reduction of cell phone/pagers: \$15,000

Move part of Certified Staff salaries who supervise lunch room to Food Service Fund: \$60,000

Eliminate Superintendent Annuity: \$30,000

Reduce School Board Stipends: \$1,500

Move part of a security officer to Title 4 (\$15,000), and part paid from parking fees (\$10,000)

Additional Reductions: \$221,500

The Pennies!

Food	\$29,016.32
Consultants	\$104,176.42
The amount does not include the West Grove Principal	
Telephone	
Cell Phones	\$29,226.13
Long Distance	\$4,029.19
Security Phone	\$1,692.13
The telephone amounts do not include the land line bill which is in excess of \$2000 each month.	
Dues and Fees	\$68,509.94
The bulk of these expenditures are for Administrative Association Dues and Registrations for Association conferences. I have also included "district/corporation" memberships for other organizations.	
Health Related Expenses	\$5,086.41
Could these expenses be run through the on-site Clinic and take advantage of their wholesale pricing? In addition there are expenditures of at least \$3,090.00 for Drug Testing. Could this be done cheaper at the clinic?	
Legal	\$51,283.46
Administrative Travel	\$31,088.96
Most of this appears to be hotels, conferences, airfare, etc. There are several administrators that routinely have mileage expenses in excess of \$100 per month.	
Bank Fees	\$19,040.85
In addition to Service Charges on the checking account the corporation is also paying a fee for each credit card.	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$156,253.47

I was unable to open the approved claims from the August 17, 2009 meeting. Claims that have been paid since the November, 2009 meeting have not yet been approved by the Board.

The amounts listed above are based on approximately 10 months of paid claims.

I had no way of determining which fund paid the claims.

The numbers on this sheet represent forty nine million, nine hundred forty thousand, three hundred and twenty eight pennies.