

To the Canton Community,

On March 4th, the Canton Board of Education passed a budget where we will spend the same amount in 2010-11 school year as we are spending this year. Our charge is to meet the needs of all of our students, maintain our infrastructure, and continue to reach for our goals. We believe we have achieved a balance this year by delivering a budget that is both responsive to the community's fiscal needs, and also makes our schools a better place next year for our children.

We like to say that Canton is a Lighthouse District, but that is not always easy! As we speak to people about this budget, our message is not that we have passed a 0% budget – that was *not* our goal. The Canton Board of Education has passed a budget where every opportunity to conserve our financial resources has been examined and many changes have been made. Change can be difficult, but it is our responsibility to make the changes necessary to allow Canton to improve and advance as a district.

This is an extraordinary economic time, and extraordinary times require new thinking. We are changing the model in some areas that are due for revision. Whether it is the utilization of small revenue accounts like athletic gate receipts or a reorganization of our library/media staff, our administrators believe we can operate differently.

We have heard for years that we need to offer more opportunities for our talented students to be challenged. With this budget, we are not only maintaining the enrichment program at Canton Intermediate School, but we are expanding it to Cherry Brook Primary School. We are changing the Canton High School Spanish classes to offer separate academic and honors classes. We are replacing computer equipment and maintaining our buildings and challenging our school communities to use less energy throughout the year. We will be doing more with less.

That is what the community has asked of us, and we are very impressed that our administrative team has found ways to make that happen. We believe that Canton's students will have a great educational experience next year and that Canton will continue to be a Lighthouse District. What better way to serve as a beacon to all the towns that are slashing their schools and programs than to advance our schools without asking for additional funds to do it. The Canton Community has a history of supporting an outstanding school district.

The Canton Board of Education hopes that you will continue that support for our 2010-11 budget.

Thank you,
Beth Kandrysawtz
Chair Canton Board of Education