

Executive Summary

The 2006-2007 Board of Education budget was approved with a 7.5% increase in spending, an increase that was consistent with most other school districts. Canton is a growing community with steady expansion in school enrollment that continues to pressure its operations and infrastructure. The challenge for the Board of Education: how to manage those increases in a cost effective manner while maintaining rigorous and relevant programs which result in excellence and high achievement.

The community-approved [2005 Board of Education Strategic Plan \(available on the district website\)](#) begins to outline a strategy that addresses our educational and budgetary issues. Specifically, under the category “Management of Resources,” the strategy calls for a three-year financial plan to support continuing enrollment and academic growth. To begin that process, and to answer questions from the public that called for a more thorough analysis of all district-wide expenses, the Board of Education commissioned an Education Efficiency Improvement Team (EEI) with the mission to “identify and research opportunities for improved efficiency within our school system while meeting all state and federal legal or mandated requirements, as well as maintain or improve standards in these and other core curricula...”

It became apparent early on in this process that the notion of rebuilding the district in a manner that significantly reduced costs by only providing a base model of education was not feasible. Issues with state and federal reimbursements would be jeopardized. Accreditation problems would occur thereby compromising our students’ ability to attain certain colleges. As our educational value dropped with this model, so would the value of our community at large, making it very difficult for businesses and homeowners. The solution: to work within our existing structure by maximizing and leveraging every resource and producing the most cost effective educational model possible.

The attached data and associated documentation is just the beginning of what will become a “best practice” with this Board of Education. Change does not come overnight, but with time, study, and good decision making. Under this process the Canton school system will provide the Canton taxpayers with the best value for their investment.

Lou Daniels
Board of Education, Chair