

# Elwood Union Free School District

Citizens Finance/  
Budget Advisory Committee

# 2013-2014 Members

Ken Rubin/Heather Mammolito – Co Chair

Andrew Kaplan – Board Liaison

- Committee Members

- Bill Comeau
- James Cameron
- Julie Badlato
- Keri Loughlin
- Michael Kaszubski

# Purpose or Charge of the Committee?

The purpose of the CF/BAC is to provide comprehensive analysis of existing programs and accurate projections of the true cost associated with implementing the educational goals and objectives for the

Elwood Union Free School District.

# Going Green

- Continue our efforts to go paperless wherever possible.
- Parent portal for Harley and Boyd.
- Savings on Postage, Paper, Envelopes and Time
- Other documents and forms can be put out on the portal or website resulting in additional savings.
- A community webpage could be created to allow for all organizations to post their information

# Security

- CFBAC does not support the addition of another full time Security Guard
- Cost to District for Security Guards will be \$300,000+ a year
- Create a Culture of Safety by
  - Maximize tools we already have
  - Training /Teaching .
- There is a consensus among the committee members that the money paid out for the Security Guards far exceeds the benefit the district is receiving

# Full Day vs. Half Day Kindergarten

- CFBAC does not support the implementation of a full day Kindergarten program, unless the district receives additional State Aid to assist in funding the program
- Reasons for our decision
  - Class Size -25 children per section too many
  - \$1MM + Budget Deficit
- Based on Reduced Enrollment - Options for consideration
  - Maintaining Half Day K would allow for reduction of 2 FTE's from Harley Ave. to help close the deficit by \$310,341
  - An additional \$235,409 can be saved by reducing the 2 FTE's that are proposed to be move from Boyd to Full Day K.
  - This results in a total budget savings of \$545,750

# Fund Balance/Deficit Spending

- CFBAC unanimously does not endorse the proposal of a \$500,00 reduction to fund balance in 2014-2015 budget.
- CFBAC does not support the idea of an Unbalanced budget or the concept of Deficit Spending.
- Reasons for our decision
  - Deficit Spending would wipe out districts fund balance in the next few years.
  - Deficit spending would lead to less educational opportunities for the students of Elwood.
  - Advocate small cuts now where we can versus major cuts to programs in the future.

# Piercing Tax Cap

- It is the opinion of the CFBAC that the Elwood Tax Payers Association and the community would get behind piercing the cap, up to a 2% increase, if the Board does not implement a Full Day Kindergarten program.
- Close budget gap by approximately \$250K



# Additional CF/BAC Tasks

- Review a long-range budget and providing feedback
- Review Fund Balance Projections
- Evaluate Albany Tax Cap Credit proposals
- Facilities Utilization

# How To Become A Member Of The Committee

- Members of the Committee are appointed during July and August for the upcoming year. Please visit Elwood UFSD web site and click the “District” tab, then click on the “Board of Education” tab then click “BOE Committees and Subcommittees” to fill out a form.
- New Members are officially appointed to the CF/BAC committee at the August Board of Education Business meeting.
- CF/BAC meetings are open to the community and we welcome comments and support from attendees.