

# 5 Must Knows About Current MCUSD Budget Situation

---

- 1) There was a perfect storm
  - a. Within the last five years the value of the taxable property in the district has decreased over 21 million dollars. Additionally, the state is currently funding schools at less than 90% of their obligation. Couple these items with a decrease in student enrollment and having to repay \$2 million dollars in tax revenue as a result of the PTAB ruling (to the landfill) and the District is receiving over \$1.5 million dollars less in revenue for this school year than it had in previous years.
- 2) Term Referendum
  - a. When the referendum was defeated in 2013 many people stated that adding an increase to their tax rate for eternity was not a viable solution for what may be a temporary problem. This concern was brought to administration and the Board of Education. This resulted in a 7 year term being placed on the referendum. This means that by law the increase in taxes will only exist for 7 years unless voted on again by the public.
- 3) Outstanding Education
  - a. Our district spends less to educate our students than any other unit (K-12) district in the area. Additionally, by almost all achievement measures our students and schools are among the top 3 schools in a 4 county area. (Lee, Ogle, Winnebago, and Boone). Simply said, our students and staff continue to do more with less.
- 4) Falling Behind
  - a. Illinois will be taking PARCC as the new state test starting in the 2014-2015 school-year. PARCC is designed to be taken electronically via computer. Our district is not capable of doing so this year because of our technology infrastructure. We were able to submit a waiver this year so that we can take the test on paper – but this is an opportunity we may not have in the future and we simply do not have the infrastructure to comply with the testing structure as it currently exists.
- 5) Cuts have been made!!
  - a. Every department has been impacted by cuts – from administration to nursing to transportation. The data are clear – we spent over 21 million dollars to run the school-district three years ago – this year we project to spend barely above 16 million dollars. These cuts have taken away the opportunity for middle school students to take part in athletics and activities, they have increased class sizes and have led to reduction of over 30 positions over the past two years. People say to cut the fat – we are already at the bone.