The School District of the City of York, Pennsylvania
Superintendent of Schools
"Together Everyone Achieves More"

May 11, 2011

MEMO TO: Samuel Beard, President
Board of School Directors

MEMO FROM: Eric B. Holmes. Ed. D.
Acting Superintendent

SUBJECT: Proposed Educational Program Curtailments and Alterations for the 2011-2012 School Year

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The following is a list of additional proposed curtailments and alterations to the educational program of the School District, which I am reluctantly recommending to the Board of School Directors. The Board has a statutory obligation to adopt a budget in which "the total amount of such budget shall not exceed the amount of funds, including the proposed annual tax levy and State appropriation, available for school purposes . . ." 24 P.S. §6-687(b). In order to achieve this statutory mandate, the Board of School Directors has no alternative other than to make substantial curtailments and alterations to the educational program of the School District. In light of the statutory mandate, I recommend the following curtailments and alterations of the educational program of the School District which are necessary and which, if implemented, will conform with the standards of organization or educational activities required by law or recommended by the Department within the context of §1124 of the Public School Code, as amended." Further, these changes will permit the District to concentrate its resources on areas of basic education such as reading, composition, science, and math so as to hopefully improve PSSA scores which do in fact require improvement in order for the District to attain AYP. Each subject area curtailment and alteration will have to be approved by the Board as a resolution at the May 18, 2011 voting meeting.

Elementary Teachers- Twenty-eight (28) teaching positions are divided between six buildings.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. We recommend the elimination of one teacher in each grade level (1-4) at each of our six elementary buildings. This program alteration will result in an increase in class sizes throughout the elementary level.

Enrichment Teachers- Five (5) teaching positions are divided between six buildings.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. We recommend the elimination of five enrichment teaching positions. The district will continue to provide a pull out program that will provide enrichment services for those students who qualify. A Gifted Education teacher will be assigned to visit each building for one day each cycle to work with those students with GIEP's as well as those students who need enrichment opportunities.

Elementary Inclusion Teachers- Three (3) teaching positions are divided between six buildings.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. We recommend the elimination of three special education inclusion teachers. Our current enrollment and case load allocation at the elementary level allows for this alteration of special education services at the elementary level. Students will be reassigned to other caseloads while still being provided the instruction required by their Individual Education Plans.

5th Grade Teachers - Four (4) 5th grade teaching positions are divided between two middle schools.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements.

We recommend the elimination of five 5th grade teaching positions. The district will reallocate the students affected by this alteration to other 5th grade classrooms within their respective buildings. This alteration will result in increased class sizes at the middle school level.

6th Grade Teachers - Four (4) 6th grade teaching positions are divided between two middle schools.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. We recommend the elimination of four 6th grade teaching positions. The district will reallocate the students affected by this alteration to other 6th grade classrooms within their respective buildings. This alteration will result in increased class sizes at the middle school level.

Secondary Music Education- Two (2) teaching positions are divided between two middle schools and one high school.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. None of our secondary schools made adequate yearly progress on the 2010 PSSA. All three secondary schools are in Corrective Action II (year 4) status according the NCLB guidelines. In order to increase the number of hours secondary school students are assigned instruction in core math and reading classes, the district will be eliminating some related arts courses and replacing them with an additional math and an additional language arts course for secondary students. Students will still receive Music Education at the middle school and high school level as an elective.

Secondary Art Education- Two (2) teaching positions exist, one at a middle school, and one at the alternative school.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. None of our secondary schools made adequate yearly progress on the 2010 PSSA. All three secondary schools are in Corrective Action II (year 4) status according the NCLB guidelines. In order to increase the number of hours secondary school students are assigned instruction in core math and reading classes, the district will be eliminating some related arts courses and replacing them with an additional math and an additional language arts course for secondary students. Students will still receive Art Education at the middle school and high school level as an elective.

Physical Education- One (1) teaching position exists at the high school.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. None of our secondary schools made adequate yearly progress on the 2010 PSSA. All three secondary schools are in Corrective Action II (year 4) status according the NCLB guidelines. In order to increase the number of hours secondary school students are assigned instruction in core math and reading classes, the district will be eliminating some related arts courses and replacing them with an additional math and an additional language arts course for secondary students. The district will continue to employ several Physical Education teachers at the high school. Students will still receive Physical Education at the high school level as an elective. The high school has experienced an 8.6% reduction in enrollment from the 2009-2010 school year to this current year. This is a decline of 102 students.

Secondary Inclusion Teachers- Five (5) teaching positions exist at the secondary level.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. We recommend the elimination of five special education inclusion teachers. Our current enrollment and case load allocation at the secondary level allows for this alteration of special education services at the secondary level. Students will be reassigned to other caseloads while still being provided the instruction required by their Individual Education Plans.

Elementary Guidance Counselors-Two (2) counselors are assigned to both middle schools.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. While the elementary schools have struggled to make AYP, they have been successful in moving students through the system. We are finding that the elementary guidance counselors are not critical to our goals of attaining AYP. The 5th and 6th grade teachers will continue to promote academic success among the middle school population and will provide sufficient support for student growth and development. Of course, to the degree that a student requires special services or attention, the District will provide such services as may be required through special education and psychological services. Each middle school will retain one secondary guidance counselor who will provide all other services.

Secondary Guidance Counselors- One (1) position exists at the high school.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. The high school has experienced an 8.6% reduction in enrollment from the 2009-2010 school year to this current year. This is a decline of 102 students. Four guidance positions will remain at the high school.

Language Arts Teachers- Two (2) teaching positions exist at the high school.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. The high school has experienced an 8.6% reduction in enrollment from the 2009-2010 school year to this current year. This is a decline of 102 students. This alteration will result in increased class sizes at the high school level.

Math Teachers- Two (2) teaching positions exist at the high school.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. The high school has experienced an 8.6% reduction in enrollment from the 2009-2010 school year to this current year. This is a decline of 102 students. This alteration will result in increased class sizes at the high school level.

Social Studies Teachers- Two (2) teaching positions exist at the high school.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. The high school has experienced an 8.6% reduction in enrollment from the 2009-2010 school year to this current year. This is a decline of 102 students. This alteration will result in increased class sizes at the high school level.

Science Teachers- One (1) teaching positions exist at the high school.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. The high school has experienced an 8.6% reduction in enrollment from the 2009-2010 school year to this current year. This is a decline of 102 students. This alteration will result in increased class sizes at the high school level.

Secondary ELL Teachers- One (1) teaching position exists at all three secondary buildings.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. We recommend the elimination of four English Language Learner teachers. Our current enrollment and case load allocation at the secondary level allows for this alteration of English Language Learner service. Students will be reassigned to other caseloads while still being provided the instruction and services required by their ELL program.

Business Education Teachers- One (1) teaching position exists at the high school.

- This request is made consistent with Section 11-1124 (2) of the School Code in order to more efficiently provide services to our students in light of our limited resources and therefore conforms to legal requirements. The high school has experienced an 8.6% reduction in enrollment from the 2009-2010 school year to this current year. This is a decline of 102 students. This alteration will result in increased class sizes at the high school level.

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Eric B. Holmes, Ed. D.
Acting Superintendent