



Dr. Phyllis A. Chase

June 18, 2008

Dear Columbia Public Schools Staff Member,

Our most valuable resource that enables this district to accomplish its mission of excellence is you. The staff of Columbia Public Schools collectively and individually makes quality learning happen for our students every day. I am committed to managing district finances in a responsible manner that sustains a just and competitive compensation, now and in the future.

In the short term, our reality is that we face diminished resources. It is my judgment, and my advice to our Board of Education, that our current financial situation precludes salary increases in the 2008-2009 budget year. Long term fiscal responsibility requires prudent monitoring that enables long term solvency and builds capacity for the future. Attached is a letter from Dr. Nick Boren, our Chief Operations Officer, and Mrs. Linda Quinley, our Director of Business Services, to our Board of Education members that details the facts around our current fiscal reality.

Thank you for your service to the students and families of Columbia Public Schools. It is the Board of Education's and my ongoing commitment to increase the compensation for your valuable service. My recommendation reflects the tough fiscal decisions required now to accomplish this goal in the future.

Sincerely,

Phyllis A. Chase
Superintendent