



The GSD Response to Budget Cuts

The Grenada School District was forced to decrease the District 2010-11 budget by \$1.8 million due to the reductions in funding from the State MAEP (Minimum Adequate Education Program.) Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault states, "Difficult decisions were made to ensure the financial solvency of our District. We prudently prepared for the reductions in State funds. All of the reductions that were implemented were carefully studied to reduce negative impact upon our students. Over 110 employees were affected by these cuts, including reductions in staff, decrease in extended day contracts, and voluntary reductions in salary by the administrative team. However, in the face of these cuts, tests scores have risen at all schools, the dropout rate has decreased, graduation numbers continue to climb, all without an increase in taxes."

The School District is saddened by the necessity of these cuts. We are hopeful that with an improved economic outlook, we will be able to reinstate some of the staff reductions, particularly teacher assistants.

Questions have been raised recently concerning the use of ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds. These funds were allocated to School Districts across the country as part of the Federal Stimulus Program. They represent a one-time allocation of funds beginning July 1, 2010, and ending September 30, 2011. These funds have been expended prudently and in a most effective manner. GSD Business Man-

ager and recent honoree by MASBO as the Most Outstanding School Business Official for Mississippi, Bo Surrell, states, "In spending federal ARRA funds, many factors must be considered. In addition to considerations of ARRA requirements about the spending of funds, other ramifications must also be considered. State Department directives and US Education Department EDGAR (Education Department Administration Regulations) rules also impact any expense using federal funds."

GSD did not use ARRA funds for recurring salary expenses for two reasons:

1. The Mississippi Department of Education specifically recommended that districts not use one-time ARRA funds for recurring salaries. The GSD complies with directives from MDE.
2. EDGAR federal program regulations (that affect the spending of all federal monies, of which ARRA funding is a part) specifically pro-

hibit the spending of federal dollars on services previously paid for by State and local dollars. Supplanting, titled to refer to the action of replacing State and local funds with federal dollars, is prohibited. Funds can be supplanted ONLY if Districts are considered financially "bankrupt," which our District, through the responsible operation within financial limitations and attention to pertinent laws and MDE directives, is not found within these parameters.

The GSD has operated with sound financial practices, has functioned within Federal laws and State MDE directives, has worked to minimize the effects of budget cuts upon our students and has not raised taxes during this difficult time. The GSD has elevated test scores, decreased the dropout rate, increased the graduation rate, and has accomplished these initiatives while struggling with budget cuts. District teachers, administrators, and staff are to be commended for their great accomplishments during these extremely trying circumstances.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Breakfast was provided to the 2nd and 3rd grade teachers by the following Partners in Education: Cash Depot, Merchants and Farmers Bank, Perma R, Sunset Chrysler and State Bank and Trust! Thank-you Partners!



Jeanette Hankins from Cash Depot, second from right, welcomes GES staff to the breakfast represented by l to r, Beth Muselwhite, Emily Patty, and Angie McElwrath.

GMS and GHS Information and News

View past issues of the newsletter and/or receive the Communicator newsletter automatically each month in color via email by registering at: <http://www.gsd.k12.ms.us/newslettersignup2.html>

GHS National Honor Society Welcomes New Members



The Grenada High School Chapter of the National Honor Society recently held its 2011 induction ceremony. Pictured are senior NHS members: (1st row, 1 to r) Tiffany Smart, Erin Wheeler, Corissa Smitherman, Leeanna Meadows, Theresa Young, Mariah Conley, Jasmine Body, Alexis Reed, Danielle Brasher, Marilyn Junkin, Victoria Grant, Mary Kate Livingston, Ana Katelyn Habig, Nina Christian; (2nd row) Stephanie Frazier, Allison Roberts, Stephanie

Branson, Molly Carol Harlow, Jackie Smart, Kelcy Sykes, Leigh Anna Hunt, Tre'Marcus Rosemon, Katie Dearing, Kimberly Parker (3rd row) Bethany Aldridge, Tori Hitt, Trinity Herrod, Kristi Fleetwood, D'ariel Sykes, Marquita Tidwell, Jonathan Tanner, Craven Ellis, Mycle Montgomery, Turner Neely, Taylor Holland, Thomas Braswell, Davis Byrd, Ruben Burke.



Pictured are new inductees: (1st row, 1 to r) Shelby Phelon, Cassie Bennett, Sunni Willis, Karen Chan, Anna Heimbach, Tysheann Grant, Brittany Engle, Katie Caldwell, Haley Banks, Lorrin Marter, Ashley King, Ceila Richardson, Eric Waller, Olivia Worthy, Lindsay Wood; (2nd row) Faith Ford, Keisha Trotter, Sharonna Herron, Christina Shirely, Miranda Daniels, Kaitlin Harrison, Taylor Norris, Ruju Sukho, Blair Albritton, Glenn Parker, Presley Coleman,

Amber Herring, Valencia McFadden, Cristen Eikner; (3rd row) Caroline Garner, Bo Solomon, Jessica Hood, Vashonay Neeley, Leigh Ann Parker, Dani Denley, Morgan Jackson, Jerry Clark, Kelsey Reece, Ashley Briscoe, Jessica Kane, Austin Henderson; (4th row) Emily Smith, Antonio Small, Chace Holland, Eddie McCurdy, Richard Nail, Curtis Haynes, Aaron Jones, Blake Guinn.