

CG-B could lose \$630,000 in budget

Written by Carol Pomeday
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Special board meeting planned for Monday; administrative staff already agrees to frozen salaries

Cedar Grove-Belgium School District officials are assessing the impact of Gov. Scott Walker's proposed budget that calls for a \$555 per student decrease in state school aid and limits how much schools can raise through taxes.

Based on projections Supt. Steve Shaw made last week when he thought the worst-case scenario was a \$500 per student decrease, the \$555 decrease could mean a loss of more than \$630,000 for the district.

Shaw met with school superintendents in Green Bay Wednesday to discuss the budget's implications.

A School Board meeting has been called for 6 p.m. Monday, March 7, to discuss the budget, Board President Jim Lautenschlaeger said Wednesday.

"We'll have a better idea of what's happening and the implications to our district by then," Lautenschlaeger said.

Shaw has said the district is in better shape than many area districts because of its increasing enrollment.

The district has until April 15 to notify teachers if their contracts will not be renewed.

Lautenschlaeger said some teachers may decide to take advantage of the retirement package in this year's contract, but most of the district's 86 teachers are younger.

"We have two teachers who have over 30 years and nine people with over 20 years," he said. "We don't have a lot of older teachers. We're a young staff."

No teacher is being considered for non-renewal because of performance, Shaw said.

"If anything, there may be layoffs," he said.

The School Board last week froze salaries for six administrators for the 2010-11 school year. They had been working without a contract.

Lautenschlaeger was the only board member to vote against the freeze, noting their salary increases are in this year's budget.

"We've got wonderful administrators and we need to compensate them for that rather than freeze their salaries," he said.

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High School Principal John Hocking said he's not surprised the board took that action.

"I'm not surprised or upset," Hocking said. "It's a natural reaction for the School Board. Until we know what's going on with the budget, we're freezing everything."

Hockng plans to retire and move to Colorado to join his wife Allison, who is an administrator there, when he sells his house in the Town of Belgium.

"But I promised the board I won't leave just before the school year so they have scramble to find a replacement," Hocking said. "My self-imposed deadline is April. If I sell the house after that, I will rent a place until they can find a suitable replacement."

Elementary Principal Mary Kaye Wolf has already submitted her resignation effective June 30. She is a seeking a job closer to her home in Rubicon.