



## North Lake School District No. 14

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### Budget Message April 21, 2011

I am pleased to have the opportunity tonight to present the North Lake Budget Message for the 2011-12 school year. I would like to thank our District's business manager, Sharon Tuttle, for the work she has done on the preparation of this budget and for her work throughout the year in managing the District's finances. Her contributions are always greatly appreciated.

I'm sure everyone here has heard the horror stories from around the state of Oregon regarding school finances. Districts throughout the state are laying off teachers and support staff by the hundreds, academic days are being slashed from school calendars, and valuable educational programs and extra-curricular activities are being eliminated. These are dire economic times for many districts, but I am happy to report that North Lake School District is in much better financial shape than most school districts around the state. Through very conservative budgeting over the years and by managing finances in a frugal and responsible manner, the District is weathering this economic storm better than most districts.

The budget that is being proposed tonight is very similar to the budget that the District operated under during the current school year. I am proposing no staff or program cuts this year, nor any reduction in the school calendar. Through prudent budgeting and spending, the District has been able to maintain a healthy ending fund balance that should help us ease through these difficult economic times. Although the budget I am proposing tonight is not a balanced budget, I believe it is prudent to use a portion of our cash carryover to ease through the current financial crisis.

At this time, the Oregon State Legislature has approved a statewide K-12 budget of \$5.7 billion. This is the number upon which the budget is built. There is also much discussion in Salem that, should the Oregon economy continue to improve and the May economic forecast comes in as expected, lawmakers may look to add an additional \$100 million or more to fund Oregon schools. Should that happen, I would propose that the District bankroll those extra funds for future years. This budget is also based on the conservative estimate of an enrollment of 212 students. The current enrollment of North Lake School is 222 students. This budget is built using very conservative estimates throughout the document.

In addition, the spending message to staff members in the coming year is simple – every expenditure will be closely scrutinized. Those things that are **needed** will be purchased, but those things that are simply **wanted** probably will not be purchased. We will continue to be thoughtful in our expenditures and make wise spending decisions.

Clearly, times are tough for Oregon schools. We're fortunate to have a sufficient cash carryover to get us through the coming year. It is my hope that the Oregon and national economies will continue to recover sufficiently in the coming year and that the severe budget cuts being experienced in other Oregon schools will not occur in the North Lake School District.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Staniak  
Budget Officer