

Troy Community Message  
From  
Teachers of the Troy Education Association

February 2010

The teachers of the Troy Education Association recognize the difficult economic situation in Troy, in all school districts and across the state. The teachers are part of this school community. Many of us have been negatively affected by the economic climate. We too have had family members and friends who have experienced job losses, declines in property values and have suffered from a depressed economy. We share the same concerns as you do. The District's financial situation will not be solved by opening our bargained contract nor prevent teacher layoffs. Instead the solution must come from our state representatives. This is why the Troy Education Association wants you to join us in contacting the legislature and Governor in asking them to support and properly fund Michigan's schools.

The district has projected over the last few months that they have enough funds for the remainder of this year and into the 2010-2011 school year. The teacher contract expires in August of 2011. The parties will be negotiating a successor agreement that year. This will be done responsibly, reflecting the state and school district's financial situation at that time.

Education is the key to Michigan's future; in your community that is being accomplished by Troy teachers. You can continue to expect that our Troy teachers remain committed to providing the very best opportunities for your child which includes a stable, consistent environment. Troy teachers are the basis on which to secure a great foundation for student learning and the future of our community.

**Join with us to:**

- Contact legislators and demand government spending focus on essential services such as education.
- Address substantive, long-term solutions to school funding at the state level.
- Become involved with "A Better Michigan Future"; a coalition proposing real solutions to state budget crisis by auditing government contracts, closing tax loopholes and give-a-ways, modernize the state sales tax, and implement a graduated income tax ([www.abettermichiganfuture.org](http://www.abettermichiganfuture.org))
- Work toward a restructuring of school funding as Proposal A has not worked in Michigan.
- Require accountability for measuring the effectiveness of the Michigan Business Tax Incentives.