

Gibraltar School District



Mr. Bruce S. Burger, Superintendent
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June 11, 2010

Dear Preschool and/or Latchkey Parent,

Households and schools have one major thing in common - in tough economic times each of us take a look at how we are going to curb our spending and trim our budgets so that we can "weather the storm." For the past several months Gibraltar has been working on eliminating \$4 million from next year's budget. Many suggestions have been made by staff and community and each has been weighed for its impact educationally and financially. The decisions are tough as each one carries an emotional impact as well.

We have wonderful latchkey and preschool programs with great staff members and terrific parent involvement. However, both have lost money in the past – over \$791,000 in the last five years to be more specific. Some parents are willing and able to pay more, while others cannot. The time came for a difficult decision.

June 9th, the Board of Education eliminated both the preschool and latchkey programs. This was done in a proper, sequential manner with advice from our attorney so that we did not violate any state laws, work rules, or contracts. Unfortunately, this process required us to keep this information quiet until an official decision could be made. However, from this point forward, Gibraltar is free to accept offers from outside companies who would be willing to rent space in our building(s) and present programs to meet the needs of our students and families.

Within the next week, I anticipate having a proposal on my desk which will offer the same programs that you have come to rely on and which promises to interview current staff first. There is a strong possibility that everything will look the same in the fall as it did in May, but be governed by an outside management company. I am confident that this proposal will more than adequately meet your needs. The details and any registration information will be communicated to all latchkey and preschool parents via US mail as soon as they are available – most likely by the first of July.

I recognize that the lack of public information surrounding this situation has made it difficult to trust at this point, but please be assured that we are moving forward in a positive manner.

Sincerely,

Bruce S. Burger
Superintendent of Schools

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