**Superintendent Central Office Update**

**Friday, January 6, 2017**

**Budget Update**

I want to thank all of the staff members that submitted ideas for the budget this week. I received nearly 200 responses. I really appreciate your input and suggestions.

As I have stated many times, the budget process is a marathon not a sprint. Therefore, over the next several weeks and months, we will review all items and see how they may be applied in our budget development and approval processes.

**Transportation**

One frequently mentioned idea was reducing buses at the high school level since they are not filled on a daily basis. There are two reasons, unfortunately, why we cannot make this adjustment. First, we are required under state statute to have a seat for every eligible rider. Second, we would not pay any less for running fewer buses. Bus contracts are based on the elementary runs that require 59 full size buses and 2 mini buses.

We have investigated consolidating middle and high school runs; however, this would require a minimum of 3 additional buses over the contracted 59 full size and 2 mini buses.

**Athletics**

Another question that came up several times was regarding combining high school athletic teams. Again, there are many CIAC guidelines that need to be followed in order to combine teams. At this time, we do not meet those requirements based on student participation in the athletic programs at both Lyman Hall High School and Sheehan High School.

**Curriculum Department**

Several staff members recommended a thorough review of the practices and procedures in the curriculum department as related to curriculum development and staffing. As I shared in an update a few months back, we are engaged in a LEAN review process and curriculum is one of those key areas. In the coming months, we anticipate being able to share some outcomes in this area based on our work.

By no means do these three areas represent everything that was shared in the survey; however, I wanted to share these three since they were suggested multiple times.

**Important Dates to Remember**

Monday, January 9, 2017 – Initial Budget Presentation – 6 p.m. – 100 South Turnpike Road

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 – Budget Workshop #1 – 6 p.m. – 100 South Turnpike Road

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 – Budget Workshop #2 – 6 p.m. – 100 South Turnpike Road