

FINANCIAL CRISIS AMONG NEW YORK SCHOOL DISTRICTS A FORUM ATTENDED BY CONCERNED CITIZENS

Thursday, February 9th, 2012, Unatego High School, Otego NY (13825-2193)

As a tax-paying citizen in a school district in upstate New York, the following issues concern me:

- The state's "Gap Elimination Adjustment"**. It created a gap in our school district budget, which cannot be offset by raising taxes or firing teachers.
- The governor's proposed budget**. Not all of the \$805 million increase for 2012-13 is available for equitable distribution. \$250 million is allotted for competitive grants, which poorer rural districts will likely not receive.
- The upcoming loss of federal aid**. Federal aid over the last two years has saved us from program cuts. That aid will not be renewed.
- The possibility of cutting non-mandated programs including kindergarten, sports, occupational education, AP courses, and cafeteria services**. The gap created by the Gap Elimination Adjustment will force Unatego and other districts to cut any or all of these.
- THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING A SCHOOL BUILDING OR A SCHOOL DISTRICT**. The loss of a school building will undermine communities, and if school districts have to shut their doors, that will affect quality of life of **ALL CITIZENS OF NEW YORK STATE**.

I, _____ state that the above
(print name, town, and zip code)
issues deeply concern me, and that I plea to your action and leadership to advocate for a more equitable funding formula for state aid to my school district and the removal of the Gap Elimination Adjustment.

Respectfully submitted, _____
(sign name)