

## **What is a Public Hearing on the FY10 School Budget?**

**What is a Public Hearing on the FY10 School Budget?** It is exactly that, a chance for the School Committee and Administration to **hear from the public** what they would like their children to experience during their years in school so they can gain valuable skills that will help advance their schooling, their lives, and in most cases, their careers in the workplace. The annual dilemma in school and municipal budgets, especially in a difficult economy, is our wishes exceed our resources. But, at times like this, it is even more important that you exercise your civic duty and define what your priorities for your schools to accomplish and help us focus the bull's eye of what you believe a good education to be. **WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

The Level Services FY10 PRSD School Budget currently has a projected \$2.5 - \$3 million shortfall between what we wish to sustain and what resources are available. Therefore, something needs to happen. Either we need to find additional resources, sharpen our focus on desired results and eliminate anything that does not hit the bulls eye of our defined "good education", or we need to create a combination of these strategies that address the problem. Is the public interested in increasing the amount of dollars available to the school budget? Should the school program be altered or cut in some areas to meet the shortfall? Would the public like us to find a place somewhere in the middle of these two options. These are the questions that must be answered.

I hope you can attend the School Committee Public Hearing on the FY10 School Budget on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the High School Cafeteria. Staff members will have an opportunity to present their thoughts from 7:00pm – 7:30 p.m. and the Public input will begin at 7:30 p.m. It is natural to have concerns simply for the coming year. However, I would suggest that we need to honor these feelings but take a broader view of what we want the school district to accomplish in the education of our children in the Pentucket Communities of Groveland, West Newbury, and Merrimac throughout their PreK – 12 experiences. Additional information is available on our website at [www.prsd.org](http://www.prsd.org).

I hope to see you at the Public Hearing.....Thanks.....Paul A. Livingston – Supt. of Schools