



Illinois Education Association-NEA

Ken Swanson, President
Robert Blade, Vice President
Cinda Klickna, Secretary-Treasurer
Audrey Soglin, Executive Director

100 East Edwards Street
Springfield, IL 62704-1999
(217)544-0706 Fax 217.544.7383

OEA News

ORION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Contact: Jane Doe
Phone: 309.235.xxxx

OEA ANALYZES DISTRICT BUDGET, FINDS FUNDS.

Orion, IL – January 2, 2006 An analysis of the Orion School District’s finances proves the district can afford to offer teachers and staff a fair contract without negatively impacting education quality for the students.

The analysis of the last five district budgets was conducted by the financial director for the Illinois Education Association. The analysis shows the school board’s claims that the district has financial problems are untrue.

According to the analysis, in 2003 the district used money from the education fund (designated primarily for salaries and benefits) for building improvements, a maneuver that landed the district on a state financial watch list. However, in 2005, the district budgeted \$7.2 million but spent \$6.7 million, leaving \$1,491,502 in the education fund.

“They have the money,” said Jane Doe, President of the OEA. “Our contract proposal would cost \$50,000, a fraction of the fund surplus. The parents, as well as the teachers and staff don’t understand why the board is looking at reductions that will hurt students and damage the quality of education.”

The board wants cuts in salary, benefits, and retirement for teachers and staff. OEA members, who have been working without a contract for seven months, are focused on bargaining a fair and affordable agreement that will preserve the quality of education for the students.

“The teachers and staff deserve a fair contract and the students deserve a quality education. The analysis shows the board has the means to give everyone what they deserve,” said OEA spokesperson John Jones.

“We urge the board to come to the bargaining table and negotiate a fair contract that will protect the quality of education for the students,” he added.

#