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**Cindy McAleer**  
*Chief Financial Officer*

February 20, 2015

CCSD Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

As many of you know, the Clinton Community School District has proposed \$1.2 million in staff reductions for the 2015-2016 school year. As difficult as this is for our district and community, we have a fiscal responsibility to operate within a balanced budget.

Many comments and questions have been raised about why a budget shortfall exists. The district's \$43 million general operating budget is driven primarily by student enrollment. Over the last five years district enrollment has declined by over 400 students. This has resulted in a \$2.6 million shortfall in revenue. To compensate for this loss of funding, the district has made over \$1.5 million in reductions over the past two years. However, additional reductions still need to be made in order to operate within our budget.

It is important to note that 80% of the general operating budget goes to salaries and benefits. Reductions in staff positions are the primary means available to decrease operational costs.

A common misconception is that money spent to build the new middle school could have, or should have, been used to offset the district's deficit. All of the district's recent new construction has been paid for using the One Cent Local Option Sales Tax. It is not permissible to use any money generated by the One Cent Sales Tax to fund the general budget. Conversely, not one penny of the district's general budget was used for any new construction.

The district appreciates your continued support as we move forward with this difficult process. Our number one priority is to maintain learning opportunities and programming for students.

The board will be working towards consensus of a plan, with approval to be considered at the March 9, 2015, board meeting. Comments, questions, and/or concerns should be voiced to board members prior to the regular board meeting. Contact information for the board can be found on the district website, <http://www.clinton.k12.ia.us/>, or can be obtained with a phone call to the District Administration Center, (563) 243-9600.

Sincerely,

Cindy McAleer  
Chief Financial Officer