

Reaction to IFC Hearing

Talking Points

2.4.10

- The discussion that took place today at the Interim Finance Committee hearing was disheartening to say the least. The groups that should've been there offering their contributions to solving the crisis were notably absent.
- Instead, lawmakers heard testimony from education leaders including NSEA President Lynn Warne, who eloquently pleaded with them to solve this funding crisis without hurting our kids.
- For years, the K-12 education budget has absorbed hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts. This time the system has been strained for so long that the results of further cuts could be catastrophic and fatal to our schools.
- We keep hearing, "there is no appetite for taxes." Well, there is even less of an appetite for schools with overcrowded classrooms, a state that ranks at the bottom in per-pupil expenditures, conditions that impede a teacher's ability to teach and a student's ability to learn.
- And WHY...when there are large corporations and industries that pay little or no taxes in our state?
- The legislature is turning its back on finding a revenue source to solve this budget crisis; instead they are looking to students and educators to make more sacrifices. This is irresponsible, unfair and will be catastrophic to our kids.
- Courage and Leadership...it's what our kids need!