

**Long-Term Planning Forum:
What does the future of Duaneburg look like?**

January 24, 2012

6 p.m. **Opening Remarks**
CeCe Tkaczyk, Board of Education President

6:02-6:25 p.m. **Community Forum Presentation**
Christine Crowley, Superintendent of Schools

Residents will learn more about the financial state of the district, what's at stake for our students and community and have the opportunity to participate in small-group discussions about the future of the Duaneburg School District.

- The Duaneburg Central School District, like many small, rural districts, is facing budgetary challenges. The district's expenses are rising (e.g., additional mandates, health insurance premiums) and revenues are declining (e.g., reduced state aid, a new statewide tax levy cap). As the 2012-13 budget process gets underway, the Board of Education is grappling with a \$1 million deficit in next year's budget.
- Each budget season, all programs and services are reviewed to find where savings can be found. For the past few years, the district has made so many cuts that the proposed budgets have actually been less than previous years. What does this mean for next year? A bare bones budget needs to be cut once again. Yet, cutting \$1 million from non-mandated programs and services would decimate the district's educational program.
- At the same time, the board has, in recent years, used a substantial amount of its fund balance reserve to balance the budget and avoid even deeper cuts. This trend, however, can't continue. In fact, if the district continues to operate in this manner, it will simply be out of money in a few short years.
- What are our options?

6:30 p.m. **Small-group discussions begin**

Discussion Question #1: After what you heard tonight about the current state and future of the district, what concerns do you have in terms of finances and the options you see before you?

Discussion Question #2: After what you heard tonight about the current state and future of the district, what opportunities do you see in terms of the options you see before you?

Question #3: As the district moves forward, what priorities and values do you hope will guide the decision-making process?

7:50 **Facilitators wrap up small-group discussions**

7:55 p.m. **Facilitators report-out on small-group discussions**

8:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
CeCe Tkaczyk, Board President