

Dear Editor:

July 14, 2011

### **MEMPHIS TEACHERS FOCUS ON STUDENTS**

Memphis Teachers have once again stepped up to help the district and students by agreeing to significant concessions. With the devastating cuts by the State for the next school year, Memphis Community Schools, as all other Michigan districts are struggling with at least a 6% cut in support. Coupled with increased costs of fuel, health insurance and energy, the budget for our children's education is severely strained. To survive next year the district is attempting to cut \$900,000 from the budget. Declining enrollment also will result in significantly less dollars.

We again thank all of our teachers and principals for volunteering to accept a 2% salary reduction and pay 20% of their health care costs. Already last winter, the teachers had accepted step freezes, an unpaid furlough day and lower cost prescription coverage. Other employee groups are accepting similar concessions to maintain our very excellent student programs and education.

Once again, the dedicated staff members at Memphis Community Schools have sacrificed themselves and their needs to ensure our students receive an exceptional education.

The Memphis Board of Education members and staff members have been working throughout the year to ensure that Memphis students will continue to receive an outstanding education. I am astonished and inspired by the sacrifice that the teachers and administrators have recently accepted to maintain our district.

I again applaud the concern for the districts' children shown by our teachers and staff. Rest assured that due to the generous actions of our teachers and staff, the Memphis educational program will remain intact.

Thank you.

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