

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
130 WESCOTT ROAD  
SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE 04106-3442**

Suzanne T. Godin, Superintendent of Schools  
Steven Bailey, Assistant Superintendent  
Polly S. Ward, Business Manager



Kathleen Cox, Director of Instructional Support  
Dianne Paton, Assistant Director of Instructional Support

February 11, 2008

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

As many of you are well aware, the South Portland School Department is entering our budget development season. This year brings a number of unique challenges to our budget work. First, the new School Consolidation legislation requires each district school budget be approved through a budget validation referendum process. This is the first year the residents of South Portland will be asked to vote on the School Department Budget. Secondly, with the state budget shortfall and the changes at the federal level in Medicaid reimbursement, funding for education is anticipated to be drastically reduced. Finally, with changing enrollment trends across the city, we are developing a redistricting plan for our elementary and middle schools.

It is imperative that our community be knowledgeable and informed of the components that will impact and ultimately determine our School Department Budget. Following is a schedule of the budget development meetings. There will be an opportunity for public comment at each meeting so please join us for any and all of the following meetings.

**Wednesday, February 27, 2008**

**School Board Budget Workshop #1**

Topic: Presentation of Superintendent's FY2009 Budget  
7:00 p.m. Memorial Middle School Library (Televised)

**Thursday, February 28, 2008**

**School Board Budget Workshop #2**

Topic: Review of Board questions from Workshop #1  
School Redistricting Plan Presentation  
7:00 p.m. Memorial Middle School Library (Televised)

**Monday, March 3, 2008**

**School Board Budget Workshop #3**

Topic: Review of Board questions from Workshop #2  
7:00 p.m. Memorial Middle School Library (Televised)

**Tuesday, March 4, 2008**

**School Board Budget Workshop #4**

Topic: Board deliberations on the Superintendent's Budget  
7:00 p.m. Memorial Middle School Library (Televised)

**Monday, March 10, 2008**

**School Board Meeting – Budget Adoption**

7:00 p.m. City Council Chambers (Televised)

**Wednesday, April 2, 2008**

**City Council Public Hearing on FY2009 School Budget**

7:00 p.m. City Council Chambers

**Mid-April**

**Budget Validation Referendum**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne T. Godin".

Suzanne T. Godin,  
Superintendent of Schools

*"ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH QUALITY LEARNING FOR ALL"*