

ELEMENTARY STRINGS RALLY - CALL TO ACTION

Who: Students, Parents, Teachers and Citizens – Elementary Strings Kids Need Your Help!

What: Rally in Support of the Elementary Strings Program – Grades 4 & 5.

When: Monday, May 3, 2004 – Meet at 6:30 p.m. to organize/picket before the 7:15 p.m. regular School Board Meeting and personal appearances. String teachers will organize children who bring their string instruments to play a couple of songs from the spring string festival.

Where: Doyle Building McDaniels Auditorium at 545 W. Dayton Street.

Why: To let the MMSD School Board know that we do not want to see elementary strings added to the cut list this year. No assessment of the cut's curriculum impact has been made.

On March 21, **Board President Bill Keys asked the Administration to prepare an analysis of the cost of the elementary strings program.** The Administration's analysis, which was released only last Thursday, April 22, was very **biased, incorrect and unfavorable toward the curriculum and proposed a \$493 fee to cover the full cost of the program** – no other activity has a 100% fee! Blatant, inequitable treatment – not fair to kids or Madison!

There is a chance the elementary strings program could be put on the cut list by School Board members, and the May 3rd rally at the auditorium is to let the School Board hear from the public in a loud unison voice - NO.

Time is of the essence. Budget decisions will be made very soon. Here's the budget timeline:

- **May 3** – Budget workshop before the 7:15 p.m. regular school board meeting. Further review of the proposed 2004-2005 budget.
- **May 5** – Board member amendments to the MMSD Administration budget cut list to be submitted. At this time a School Board member could recommend including elementary strings (4th and 5th grade) on the cut list.
- **May 10** – Board budget workshop to discuss and vote on Board member proposed amendments. Four votes are needed to include/exclude an item from the budget cut list
- **May 13** – Public Hearing on the Budget at 7 p.m. in the McDaniels Auditorium.
- **May 17** – Board budget workshop – determine personnel layoffs.

Come to the rally and let your voice be heard. Tell others. Call Board members.

E-mail the Board: comments@madison.k12.wi.us.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead