

The School Improvement Council met in the Media Center on March 12 at 8 a.m. Attending were: principal Francine Goldstein, teachers Stephanie Mamakos, Lauren King and Nancy Sweeney, community representative Tom Boutureira and parent members Annie Gilbert, Susan Greenberg, Julie Howe and Dorie Resnik.

We discussed the looming school budget deficit of \$3.2 million and potential ways, both big and small, to address it. We talked about whether it makes more sense to cut out an entire program, such as health, or trim a little from several different programs so all are preserved in some fashion. The teachers felt strongly that they would not have the time to deliver the health curriculum as part of their regular duties if that is cut. Other potential cuts discussed were instrumental music, as well as the second weekly gym class for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and the fourth weekly class for kindergarteners. We also talked about the pros and cons of introducing Smartboard technology in such a difficult budget year.

We debated various ways to deliver all this unsettling news to the Bancroft community, including sending a letter from Francine and inviting a School Committee member to a PTO meeting to answer questions. We agreed to reconvene on March 26 to start planning our parent survey for next year.