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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Highland Board outlines \$1.2 million in budget cuts

MEDINA, OHIO (12/14/09) – With the failure of the Highland Schools Levy in November, the Board of Education will make immediate budgetary cuts in order to address the anticipated \$5.1 million deficit in fiscal year 2012. The Board will enact the following cost-cutting measures, totaling approximately \$1.2 million in annual savings:

- A total of 22 support and certified staff will be reduced effective January 19, 2010 (The Board will take action on these reductions at a later date once those affected by the reduction in force have been personally notified).
- Highland will consolidate and modify school bus routes effective January 19, 2010.
 - Students may walk up to one-half mile to their designated bus stops. A letter will be sent home to all affected Highland families outlining the changes.
- This year's 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. will be eliminated (refunds will be issued).
- All transportation for non-essential field trips will be eliminated, effective immediately.
- Outside organizations will pay full rental price to use any school building, as well as any associated personnel costs, effective immediately.
- The Latchkey Program will now be charged a flat fee for utilities at each building utilized.
- The District's summer school program will be eliminated.

The Board will also initiate a "pay-to-participate" fee structure for all sports and club participation effective January 4, 2010. Cost per high school student, per sport, will be \$200, with an annual cap of \$600 maximum per family; middle school students will pay \$150 per sport, with a \$600 maximum per family per year; and those students who choose to be involved in extra-curricular clubs will be assessed a \$50 fee per student per club. In addition, effective January 19, 2010, those parents utilizing PaySchools will be responsible for any associated administrative costs.

The Highland Board of Education will be on the ballot in May 2010. Further budgetary cuts and staff reductions will be necessary prior to the 2010-11 school year.