

## **Down County Consortium Subcommittee Report January 2010**

**Chair: Mary Abe, [abe\\_mary@yahoo.com](mailto:abe_mary@yahoo.com)**

The DCC sub-Committee met on December 14, 2009 at Strathmore Elementary School to discuss the proposed FY 2011 Operating Budget. In attendance were Mary Abe, Chair; Sally Taber, Area VP; Kelly Giblin, Einstein Cluster Coordinator; Frances Frost, Kennedy Cluster Coordinator; Jennifer Chambers, Northwood Cluster; Bronda Mills, Community Superintendent; Sean Bulson, Community Superintendent; Jeannie Franklin, Director of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services; Marty Creel, Department of Enriched and Innovative Programs.

The Committee reviewed the Summary of Potential Budget Reductions proposed by the superintendent. There was great concern that many of these potential reductions strongly impact the academic progress which has been made in Down County schools through the implementation of the choice process and signature programs in our secondary schools. The proposals also heavily effect academic intervention, program specialist, reading specialist and staff development positions which have proved to be essential to the increases in performance that have been made in Down County schools. The proposal to eliminate transportation for high school choice programs and application programs at all levels was viewed as a serious challenge to the progress that has been made in making school choice available to families at all economic levels.

Marty Creel and Jeannie Franklin will provide data on the effect of both the high school choice process and the middle school magnet consortium on student achievement. Cluster coordinators will review the proposed reductions with their clusters as they work to prepare operating budget testimony.