**Key Messages**

* The Co-Chairs’ budget means drastic cuts for schools. It is $600 million short of what it will take for districts to continue offering the same programs and services over the next two years.
* The cuts will vary by district, but will include lost teaching jobs, reductions in school days, elimination of programs and electives, and more.
* For our district, this is what the cuts mean:
* Elimination of <programs> – Despite voters’ requests for more comprehensive programming.
* Elimination of <positions> – So that between this budget and 2008 we’ll have lost a total of XX positions, making classes even bigger.
* Reduction of <X> school days – Since the Great Recession 10 years ago, our students have lost a total of XX days of school.
* Using reserves to minimize the damage – This is a short-term solution that jeopardizes our financial stability. It will lead to even deeper cuts in the near future if the legislature fails to provide more funding.
* All of these cuts are on the table despite the reports that Oregon’s economy is not just in good shape, it has fully recovered from the recession – but the “temporary” cuts have not been reversed.
* Oregonians consider education a top priority, but the legislature is not budgeting that way.
* The good news: it’s not too late for the legislature to revise the budget.
* Community members have greater influence than anyone else in the state.
* Emails, postcards and phone calls could turn things around.
* But it needs to happen now. Let’s work together.