

## THE TRUTH ABOUT PRIVATIZATION IN HARTLAND

### 1. COST SAVINGS

Hartland Consolidated Schools privatized its custodians on July 1, 2006, expecting to save \$500,000 in operations by doing so. The actual amount spent on Maintenance/Operations in 05-06 (prior to privatization) was \$5,100,435. The amount budgeted for 06-07 is \$4,886,283 – a difference of \$214,152, less than one-half of one percent of the District's budget. The fund equity grew by \$314,746, less than three quarters of one percent of the budget. While the figures for 06-07 are not final, note that they are recently amended. \*

Question: Is it worth it? \*see budget at [www.hartlandschools.com](http://www.hartlandschools.com)

### 2. IDENTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES

A Freedom of Information Act request was recently sent to Hartland on behalf of the Hartland Custodial Maintenance unit, requesting the names and addresses of the Grand Rapids Building Services employees from July of 2006 and July of 2007. The District denied the request, stating that they are not the employer of record, thus this information is not available to citizens who request it.

Question: Do we want to create a school district in which community members cannot be told who is working in the buildings where their children attend school?

### 3. QUALITY OF SERVICE

There have been 129 documented complaints about quality of custodial service in Hartland from July 1, 2006 through March 30, 2007, and many more undocumented. The breakdown is as follows:

- 26 – Restroom and locker room cleanliness
- 14 – Staffing and training concerns
- 29 – Classroom/building cleanliness
- 10 – Lack of snow removal
- 13 – Restrooms not stocked with supplies
- 19 – Lack of trash removal
- 7 – Kitchen Cleanliness

Question: How can quality of service be measured against the savings that will be realized?

### 4. TURNOVER RATE

As of the opening date of school, 36 employees had been hired by GRBS. Of those 36 employees, 15 were gone by January 20, 2007. That is a turnover rate for the original 36 employees of 42%. If you add the 6 that didn't make it past probation that percentage becomes 50%.

Question: Why is the turnover rate this high? Is it good for our students and our facilities?

### 5. FINGERPRINTING

Per the contract between HCS and GRBS, GRBS employees are to be fingerprinted and have background checks prior to working in the schools. In fact, there have been instances when that has not occurred.

Question: Is this going to be safe?