

May 6, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:

Melissa Reeves, mdreeves@jeffco.k12.co.us, Jeffco Public Schools, 303-982-6567

Lynn Setzer, lsetzer@jeffco.k12.co.us, Jeffco Public Schools, 303-982-6810

JEFFCO'S BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES 2011-12 BUDGET

Members of the Jefferson County Board of Education have approved the district's 2011-12 budget at a meeting Thursday, May 5. The approved budget reflects nearly \$40 million in cuts which include salary reductions for all Jeffco employees, the imposition of bus fees, and the closure of two elementary schools – Zerger and Martensen. Using a projected \$1.5 to \$3 million in surplus funds from the 2010-11 budget, the board did restore some funding to programs including a \$450,000 challenge grant for the district's Outdoor Lab schools, which are struggling to find private funding to stay open during the 2011-12 school year.

In addition, board members reduced the fee for busing from \$150 per student to \$100. Option school busing was reduced from \$200 per student to \$150. The surplus funds are the result of conservative spending on the part of Jeffco district departments during the current budget year. Should there be additional funds available; the money will be used for additional teachers to help keep elementary class sizes manageable for the coming school year.