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Sedalia, MO
Circ. 4920
From Page:
1
6/13/2009
14275



**WARSAW
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
114-800
Board
refuses
to release
proposed
budget

**Officials could
approve document
as early as Monday**

BY ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
THE SEDALIA DEMOCRAT

Warsaw R-IX School District officials refused to release a copy of the proposed 2009-2010 school year budget, though the board could approve the budget as early as Monday.

The Democrat requested a copy of the

budget on Wednesday. The board met Thursday in a special work session to discuss the budget.

Assistant Superintendent Claudia Gott said Friday morning she could not release a copy until the budget was approved by the board.

Jean Maneke, an attorney representing the Missouri Press Association, said the proposed budget is a public record under the Missouri Sunshine Law.

"If the custodian of records ... has a copy of this budget, then it's a public record," she said. Gott is the custodian for the district.

Under the Sunshine Law, a public body must cite an exemption as a reason to keep a document closed.

"I know of no exception that would allow them to close the proposed budget," Maneke said.

Gott did not return

WARSAW, see Page A6 ➔





Sedalia
Democrat
Sedalia, MO
Circ. 4920
From Page:
6
6/13/2009
14275



WARSAW

Continued from Page A1

phone calls Friday afternoon inquiring whether the district was invoking an exemption.

Board President Mike Mais, when reached by phone Friday, refused to give details of the proposed budget.

"It's not an actual document at this point. Nothing's been decided on at this point," he said.

Mais confirmed there was a draft budget at Thursday's meeting.

"There were several budget proposals made, but nothing was decided.

Nothing will be decided until Monday night," he said.

Mais said changes to the budget from last year could include everything from wages, salary schedules, health insurance and

staffing.

"Everything is on the table at this point. Everything has to be looked at. I don't think there's any sacred cows," he said.

Other members of the board could not be reached by phone Friday afternoon.

The board will meet in regular session 7 p.m. Monday in the library of Warsaw High School, 20363 Lane of Champions.

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