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The Heron's Nest: Some good news out of Upper Darby

Published: Thursday, February 21, 2013



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The Upper Darby School District is sporting another shiner. A recent graduate of Upper Darby High School has been charged in a hammer attack on a teacher and then stealing her laptop. He's suspected in several recent laptop thefts from district schools. [You can read it all here](#). And then [here](#) you'll find all about a middle schooler who is charged with making threats to shoot up his school.

But that's not really what I want to talk about this morning.

What I want to do is offer the district some kudos for entering into an innovative new way of putting their budget together. The district has teamed with the University of Pennsylvania Project for Civic Engagement on an innovative series of public forums to allow the public to take part in the budget process. [You can read the details here](#). And our editorial [here](#).

It is not going to be easy. The district once again is swimming in red ink, looking at a \$9.37 million deficit one year after last year's \$13 million dollar hole sparked teacher layoffs and curriculum changes that caused a public uproar.

This new method could provide a blue print for other local districts.

Well done, folks.

Big Phillies news: Utley? Hamels? Nah, win free tickets!

There is some news from Clearwater. When the Phillies kick off the Grapefruit League season with an intersquad game on Friday, there will be a

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