

# BUDGET BULLETIN NO. 4

02.07.08

The Governor's Budget for 2008-09 includes a proposal to cut public education funding.

To keep our parents and community informed regarding the status of the state budget and its potential impact to our District, we will be issuing regular Budget Bulletins.

## Being Last Hurts

As Ocean View moves forward with plans to address the Governor's unprecedented proposed cuts to our education funding, it's important to put into perspective the enormity of the task before us.

### A Brief History

Prior to the 1980s, California's per-pupil expenditures were above the national average; since then we have fallen farther and farther below the national norm. California ranked 18th in public school funding in 1975; 20 years later it ranked 41st, which means only nine other states spent less money on K-12 education than California. Today, California continues to lose ground in per-pupil spending and has dropped another five places to 46th in the nation. Currently, California trails the national average of per-pupil spending by nearly \$2,000. With the Governor's proposed cuts, California will fall even further behind the national average. And these cuts have occurred even though California has the 6th largest economy in the world.

### What Does a \$4.8 Billion Cut To California Public Schools Look Like?

Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed \$4.8 billion budget cut will severely damage the quality of education in our state. Remember, most programs are mandated by the state or federal government, regardless of whether they are funded. This cut is the largest ever proposed to K-12 education.

How will a \$4.8 billion cut affect California public schools? It is equivalent to:

- Shutting down every school across the state for nearly one month.
- Laying off more than 107,000 teachers.
- Increasing class sizes statewide by as much as 35%.
- Reducing per-student spending by more than \$800.
- Laying off over 137,000 bus drivers, janitors, food service workers, maintenance workers and other education support professionals.
- Cutting more than \$24,000 per classroom.
- Cutting \$7.76 million from school districts the size of Ocean View.
- Eliminating all music and art programs statewide with room to cut even more.

Keep in mind, we are already rank 46th in the nation. This is a crisis of historic proportions for our children.

### Ocean View's Response

Our Fiscal Planning Team (FPT) has been formed and includes members from both employee groups as well as District administration. Using our Core Principles as a foundation, the team is working through our expenditures to prioritize and prepare for the proposed cuts.

Our Board of Trustees have been prescient of a fiscal crisis such as this, and has prudently protected an extra 1.5% reserve of our budget. This reserve will help us as we navigate forward and will provide a small window of opportunity to make prudent decisions.

Along with weekly Budget Bulletins keeping our staff and community informed, we are posting updated information on our website as we receive it. We are also preparing for community sessions, if needed, to gather input as we continue our focus on high student achievement and exemplary programs - as evidenced by our two National Blue Ribbon and 14 California Distinguished Schools, and our three California Leadership schools.

Ocean View schools belong to our community and we will continue to be transparent in our process, and inclusive in our decision-making.