

BUDGET BULLETIN NO. 6

02.28.08

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.

Rumor Has It

During situations like our current fiscal crisis, rumors are bound to be spread. Most rumors develop because factual information is not readily available and speculation replaces truths. It's natural to have conversations about potential changes, and collectively we all have ideas about how change should occur. As we move forward through the process of addressing budget shortfalls due to extensive state budget cuts, we are committed to keeping everyone informed. We are publishing these regular Budget Bulletins and sending them to all staff to ensure every employee gets updated information. We are posting the Budget Bulletins on our website to inform our parents and community, and we are meeting with our management team regularly to provide a forum for information gathering and sharing, so they, too, can be a source for accurate information.

The Real Story

Every decision that will be made to balance our District budget will be made adhering to our Core Principles: Will we be able to continue to ensure high student achievement? Are we minimizing any impact to staff?

To address this fiscal crisis, the Fiscal Planning Team (FPT) met for a full-day session on Monday (02.25.08), to brainstorm areas in our budget that could be deferred or suspended. Brainstorming is the first step in the process. The FPT will meet again next Wednesday (03.05.08), to look at the costs associated with the areas they identified. Any potential suspensions must be considered in light of the following before they will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration:

- Is the item a component of our Core Program?
- Is the item mandated by state or federal regulations?
- Is the item included in a contract with an employee group?

The FPT is a diverse group of representatives of both employee associations, principals, and district administration. The members of the Team are listed on the reverse side of this Bulletin and are available to receive your input and to respond to questions you may have.

The Board of Trustees is committed to a transparent and inclusive process. The Board will conduct study sessions to receive information and recommendations from the Superintendent. The study sessions are open to the public and once scheduled will be announced on our District website.