

BUDGET BULLETIN NO. 7

03.17.08

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.

No Time to Wait

While news of the state's fiscal crisis continues to grow, and reports in the media that school districts throughout California are making devastating cuts to programs and cutting staff, Ocean View's Fiscal Planning Team (FPT) and administration are carefully analyzing our budget and focusing on minimizing any impact on staff. California property values have dropped at record speed, and nationally there are discussions about recession. These issues are what drives our priorities and commitments to students and staff. Our Core Principles are in full effect: We will make decisions that protect our core program to ensure high student achievement; and we will minimize any impact on staff.

Until the state budget is signed, we will not know exactly how much our funding will be reduced. We do not have the luxury of time to wait for a finalized state budget as we are legally required to establish a balanced budget for next year by the end of June. Therefore, based on assumptions reported from the state Legislative Analyst's Office, Ocean View will have to cut \$2.6 million from our current budget for 2008-09, and another \$2-\$3 million on top of that for 2009-10.

Next Steps

As we continue to monitor state finances, the FPT has forwarded their recommendations to the Superintendent's Cabinet for further review. Cabinet will then evaluate the impact of the recommendations on the core program, and determine the actual cost savings of items targeted for suspension. Once Cabinet completes the analysis, the Superintendent will submit the recommendations to the Board of Trustees for consideration. The target for those recommendations is the April 1st Board Meeting, which will include a study session.

The recommendations to the Board of Trustees will address financial shortages for the next few years, with the understanding that as more information from the state comes forward – good or bad – the recommendations, and eventual fiscal plan, will be modified to align with state actions.

The Board of Trustees and Superintendent appreciate the hard work and support of all staff through these unsure times. We will continue to publish Budget Bulletins to keep you informed of any updates we receive on the state budget crisis, and on our progress toward a balanced budget for 2008-09 and 2009-10.