

BUDGET BULLETIN NO. 12

01.22.09

Alan Rasmussen, Ed.D.
Superintendent

The state budget for 2008-09 is under threat of mid-year cuts to public education due to the state fiscal crisis. In addition, the 2009-10 state budget is expected to have an up to \$41 billion shortfall, again reducing 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.

State Budget Frozen in Gridlock; District Budget Enters Deep Freeze

The State of California is facing an unprecedented budget crisis. It is anticipated that the State's financial deficit will reach \$41 billion over the next 18 months and will have a deep impact on school districts across California.

Based upon the Governor's proposal, our school district anticipates a reduction of State funding of \$2.5 million this year and \$3 million for the upcoming 2009-10 school year. The magnitude of these kinds of budget cuts would be unprecedented and would result in the elimination of many valued programs and the layoff of employees.

As a result of the State's fiscal crisis, we are taking the following immediate actions:

- Processing only the most essential and basic expenditures.
- Placing a freeze on all new hiring.
- Examining a wide array of potential program and personnel reductions.
- Emphatically urging legislatures to give us **full flexibility** of categorical funding, local control over remaining dollars, **eliminate burdensome State mandates**, and **make education a top priority by providing adequate funding to local school districts**.

This dire situation is made even more severe as it comes on the heels of nearly \$4.2 million in reductions that Ocean View School District made coming into this school year as a result of the State's cuts and deferred funding practices. These painful cuts included reductions to custodial services, administration, and other one-time expenditures.

Our Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC), appointed by our Board of Trustees, and the Fiscal Planning Team (FPT), comprised of administration and staff, are meeting weekly and will leave no stone unturned looking for ways to cut expenditures. We encourage you to stay informed as we anxiously wait for the State to make definitive decisions by visiting our OVSD Budget Watch page at www.ovsd.org. All CBAC meeting agendas are posted online as well.

“Not Business As Usual”

During the State's fiscal crisis, our mantra is “Not Business As Usual.” As we analyze our programs for cost-cutting changes, be assured that our guiding principals of maintaining our core program and minimizing the impact to staff, is foremost in our decision-making process.

Your Voice: Heard

You can share your concerns regarding the need for full categorical flexibility and the elimination of State mandates to our Legislators. They can be contacted at the following:

The Honorable Karen Bass
Speaker, California State Assembly
District No. 47
5752 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 565
Los Angeles, CA 90036

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President Pro Tem, California Senate
District No. 6
5722 Watt Avenue
North Highlands, CA 95660