

CUCPTSA Legislation Briefs – February 2009

LOCAL

Special Board Meeting -- January 21, 2009

- The main topic at this meeting was the 2008/09 budget, as well as a preview of the 2009/10 budget. CUSD is looking at an estimated \$38 million in state budget cuts over the next 16 months. This includes \$15.5 million in current year 'mid-year' cuts and \$22.5 million for 09/10.
- For more information on the State budget, go to <http://gov.ca.gov>
- For the complete budget presentation from this CUSD board meeting, go to http://www.capousd.org/board_agen/BudgetStudySession1-21-09.pdf

Regular Board Meeting, February 9, 2008

- Ron Lebs presented a three-pronged approach of 1) cost containment measures 2) encumbrance review/reduction and 3) categorical program review/sweep/flexibility.
- For the 09/10, CUSD has listed every program and put a price on it. This list is available at www.capousd.org. There is an on-line suggestion box, called the Community Input Survey to weigh in on ways that CUSD can increase revenues, cut expenses, and prioritize cuts.
- Next is the February 25th Budget Workshop at 6:00 at the CUSD Ed Center.
- March 9, 2009, the trustees will have to decide which cuts to make because certificated layoff notices are due by March 15.
- The federal stimulus package will become a vital part of the equation for CUSD. Money in this legislation that is targeted at education can help to off-set the state budget cuts.
- Other news from the board meeting:
 - Trustees passed a resolution in opposition to further education cuts from the state
 - Trustees voted 7-0 to suspend the volunteer Board policy
 - Discussion on the cell tower consulting company, but no decision
 - Hughes Bill mandate settled was approved 7-0.
 - Postponed decision on school calendar until we have a state budget.
 - Still no decision on Superintendent Carter, so he remains on paid administrative leave.

STATE

STATE BUDGET

- A tentative budget deal has been reached between the Big 5. A vote of the Legislature is expected on Saturday (Feb 14) on a budget package that will cover the next 16 months (through June 2010).
- The budget proposes: **\$15.8 billion in cuts, \$14.3 billion in tax increases, and \$10.9 billion in borrowing.** And if California gets \$10 billion in federal stimulus money, cuts drop by \$1.2 billion, borrowing by \$5.5 billion and tax increases by \$1.8 billion.
- The plan would fund **K-12 education** at \$5 billion less than it was otherwise entitled.
- On the tax side, the plan increases **sales tax** by 1 cent on the dollar, **vehicle license fees** from current 0.65 percent of vehicle value to 1.15 percent, and **gasoline taxes** by 12 cents a gallon with proceeds to pay off transportation bonds. Income taxpayers would pay a 2.5 percent **surcharge on tax liability** - 5 percent if federal stimulus comes in under \$10 billion. Reduces **tax credit for dependents** from \$309 to \$99
- While the Legislature continues to negotiate the budget, the State is running out of cash. Controller John Chiang has [announced](#) that cash shortages in February will force him to delay payments for state income tax refunds and many health and welfare programs.

STATE OF EDUCATION ADDRESS -- February 3, 2009 - Jack O'Connell, Superintendent of Public Instruction

- If we continue down the road we are on, public schools and the state will face irreparable damage.
- He is working with state and local government to get money into the classroom by supporting legislation regarding parcel tax for school facilities bonds.
- Mr. O'Connell would like this time to be used to rethink school funding.

- Mr. O'Connell lauded the strides made in the achievement gap.
- Bottom line, he is hopeful and optimistic. Looking at ways to weather the storm.

Sources: *Sacramento Bee*, California PTA, www.cde.ca.gov

FEDERAL

2009 Economic Stimulus Package

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the \$800 billion stimulus plan contains billions of dollars in funding for education and is expected to be approved by Congress and presented to President Obama for his signature by mid to late February.
- The education funding in the plan includes several key items:
 1. increased funding for Title I schools (\$10 billion),
 2. increased funding for IDEA/special education costs (\$12.2 billion),
 3. State fiscal stabilization funds that are intended to prevent or mitigate cuts to education funding (\$53.6 billion).
- California could receive \$4 billion to \$10 billion (more than \$2 billion in Title I and IDEA funds, and an additional \$2 to \$5 billion in fiscal stabilization/school modernization funds).
- CUSD should receive more than \$10 million in IDEA/Title I funds, and will also benefit from the state fiscal stabilization funding that is part of the package.

QUALITY COUNTS 2009

- The 13th edition of Quality Counts, sponsored by Education Week, was released. 2009 is the first year with a detailed look at how states are tackling the education of the nation's 5.1 million English Language Learners (ELL). Some interesting highlights include:
- The number of ELL students is increasing at historic levels. There are 200 different languages spoken in our public schools.
- California and Texas alone account for 1/2 of all ELL in the nations public schools.
- Mexico is the largest single country of origin, accounting for nearly 54% of ELL youths born outside the US. 68.4% of ELL students are Hispanic.
- California is one of the seven states that bans the use of native language instruction; however research shows that teaching ELL students in a bilingual setting is more effective than only teaching in English.