

Budget News – August 25, 2008 **New PE Program for Elementary Schools**

Last year, a number of programs and services were reduced or eliminated due to the budget cuts from the state. The YES Foundation launched a giving campaign to help with the budget shortfall. The result was an amazing \$80,000 of contributions from the community to help offset cuts. The YES board voted to put the money into restoring the elementary PE program, a high priority for teachers and the Budget Advisory Committee. The new PE program will provide the same level of service we had last year: 30 minutes of P.E. weekly for Kindergarten, two 30 minute sessions for 1st and 2nd grade and a total of 90 minutes per week for grades 3, 4 and 5. The program will be coordinated by P.E. teacher Chad Stuart from White Hill. Chad will supervise P.E. specialists for each elementary site to provide a coordinated program for the district.

State Budget Still at Impasse

The legislators still have not been able to come to an agreement on the state budget. The Governor provided a board summary of the Budget Proposals that he has offered over the last several months: \$2 billion in additional cuts beyond the Conference Committee version of the Budget, a temporary increase in the sales tax, Budget reforms to build a rainy day reserve, authorization to allow future governors to make mid-year spending reductions and an economic stimulus package.

The Governor emphasized that, in exchange for the Budget reforms, he would be willing to support a temporary 1¢ sales tax to avoid even deeper cuts. This increase, however, would terminate after three years, and the rate would be reduced by one-fourth of a cent permanently. The state sales tax rate is currently 5.0%. He added this proposal is a fiscally responsible compromise that puts California on the road to “fiscal security.” Republicans have pushed for new borrowing to solve the current year’s Budget stalemate. However, Governor Schwarzenegger called this approach unwise and refused to do any borrowing this year. The 2008-09 Budget is now the fifth latest Budget in California’s history.

Highlights of the Upcoming Board Meeting of August 28, 2008

- The board will consider increasing Developer Fees from \$2.24 per square foot for residential construction to \$2.97 per sq. ft. A study conducted by Jack Schreder and Associates will be presented that indicates projected enrollment increases justify the need for more classrooms, warranting the higher Fees.
- The board will explore whether to pursue an additional parcel tax this year. The parcel tax may be needed to offset the budget shortfall from the state or to fund implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- Trustees will continue the second reading of Board Policies concerning Students, the 5000 series. The board will adopt the entire series after the second reading is completed.

*If you have any questions, please contact the Superintendent’s Office.
Thank you for your continued support of the District.*