



Dear Members of the Ross Valley School District,

The changing budget landscape of California occupied a great deal of time and attention in the Ross Valley School District. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of teachers, parents, staff, trustees and administrators working through the budget process. Based on feedback from the community and the Budget Advisory Committee, the Board has already made a commitment to maintain small class sizes, keep libraries open, continue the extended day kindergarten program, and classroom aides. We recognize that it is very important to keep all members of all school community updated about our 2009-2010 budget.

It is also important to recognize the progress and achievements that individual students are making every day. Students are our business and it is the growth of individual students that we cannot forget. We thank our staff for keeping their focus on our core educational mission during these difficult months. Our site and district staff remain committed to making a positive difference in the lives of every student.

We all know that California is experiencing the worst fiscal crisis in recent history. Our district is in the midst of making reductions unlike those we have seen before. The dollars coming from the Federal Relief Program may ease the reductions we need to make. Although we recognize the necessity to protect the fiscal solvency of the district, we know that reductions are very painful for our district family.

These are very challenging times for our District. Our goal is to make the best possible decisions to protect the students we serve and also the long-term fiscal health and success of RVSD. We truly appreciate the participation, patience and understanding of members of our district family and the community as we work through this process. The Budget Advisory Committee will continue to work through the process while maintaining the district mission of providing a program of academic excellence, cultural richness, social, emotional and physical development that educates, supports, challenges and inspires every child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Bryce Sumnick
Superintendent

Golden Bell Awards Honoring Teachers & Staff

This past week, recipients of the 2009 Golden Bell Award were notified by Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools. One teacher from each of our schools and two classified staff members will be recognized and honored at the Golden Bell Education Ceremony scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2009, at 4:30 p.m.

Congratulations to our Golden Bell recipients for the year; we are proud of you!

- ❖ Chad Stuart, Physical Education Teacher, White Hill
- ❖ Craig Engle, 3rd Grade Teacher, Wade Thomas
- ❖ Joanne Harwood, Resource Specialist Teacher, Brookside Lower Campus
- ❖ Anna Schnell, 3rd Grade Teacher, Brookside Upper Campus
- ❖ Diane Vannucci, Speech Pathologist, District Wide
- ❖ Mary Caruso, Computer Technology Specialist, District Wide
- ❖ Sheryl Lucchesi, Administrative Assistant, Manor

This year the event will be held in Angelico Hall at Dominican University of California. The recognition ceremony will be followed by a reception in Calerugea Hall, also at Dominican University.

Budget News for April 21, 2009

On April 17, U.S. Secretary of Education released \$4 billion in State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) for California. On April 18, Governor Schwarzenegger and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced that the online application for the SFSF was up and ready. RVSD District Office staff has submitted the application for the district. It is not clear at this time how the SFSF funds will be distributed. The funds may be distributed using the revenue limit formula or categorical funding formula or a combination of both.

There are three primary one-time funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Title I, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the SFSF funds.

The Title I funds are distributed according to current Title I allocation formulas. Half the money will be allocated and received by districts by mid May. The remaining half of the money will be distributed between July 1 and October 1. We are not yet sure of the amount RVSD will receive. Estimates of districts' allocation previously released by the federal government were inaccurate. They had not taken into account county office or charter school allocations.

IDEA funds will also be distributed in two parts. Half will be distributed by mid-May; the remaining funds will be distributed by September. IDEA funds will be allocated according to the Special Education Local Plan Agency (SELPA) plans currently in place.

We will keep you posted on the amounts RVSD receives and the uses for the funds in all three categories.

***Highlights of the Board Meeting of
Thursday, April 9, 2009***

The Board of Trustees voted to restore some of the supplementary programs for the 2009-2010 year. They include class size reduction in grades K – 3 (20:1 ratio), maintain class size in grades 4-5 and 6-8; maintain library services at current levels; maintain instructional aides in kindergarten and 1-5 at current funding level; maintain school nurse at current level; White Hill pre-period day; district contribution to the music program; and Title I district contribution to supplement the basic grant.

***Highlights of upcoming Board Meeting on
Thursday, April 23, 2009***

The Board will review the Board Bylaws, continue discussion on preliminary goals for the 2009-2010 school year, and review of budget related items for the 2009-2010 school year.

You can view the entire board packet and view all the topics the board will be addressing at <http://rvsd.csbaagendaonline.net>

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