

Budget News for September 16, 2008

The Legislature came to a resolution on the budget on Sunday, September 14, 2008. While we do not yet have details on the proposed resolution, it appears that there will be no new taxes. An additional \$9 billion in cuts and closure of tax loopholes will partially make up for the revenue shortfall. Cuts to education will total \$2.9 billion in order to help balance the budget. The extent to which this affects RVSD operating budget this year is yet to be seen.

There are no details regarding Prop 98 funding, but reports say that there will be no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for schools. School Services of California will provide a detailed analysis of the budget in the next ten days. We will keep you posted as to the impact the proposed agreement will have on the Ross Valley School District.

Attendance Makes a Difference

Attendance at school makes a difference for student learning as well as for income to the district. RVSD receives \$45.20 for each student every day they are in school. If students are absent for any reason, we receive nothing. On Friday before the Labor Day weekend, we had 92 absences; the following Tuesday, 62 absences. The total loss in revenue was \$6,960. Of course we do not want students to come to school when they are sick, but otherwise, it so important both for their education and the financial health of the district for students to come to school. Please plan doctors' appointments and vacations so as not to conflict with school days. If you must use a school day, please plan to bring your child in the morning for core instruction time and for attendance.

Highlights from the Board Meeting of September 11, 2008

- The Board welcomed 20 new teachers, 5 PE and music specialists, and nine classified employees at the board meeting. They also celebrated thirteen teachers who received tenure.
- STAR test data for the 2007-2008 school year was presented to the trustees. Three year comparison data by grade, same student data (cohort) over three years and subtest scores were reviewed. Three year trends show areas of strength in English Language Arts. While all schools score well above the state goal of 800 on the Academic Performance Index, our math scores indicate a need for more emphasis on pre-algebra skills, measurement and geometry. Math will be the targeted area for improvement in the district. Each school staff and Site Council will review their site's STAR scores and develop an action plan to address their site specific needs.
- The unaudited actual financial report for 2007-2008 showed an increased ending balance of approximately \$39,000 in unrestricted accounts. This is in addition to the 5% set aside by the board for economic uncertainty. The board approved application for a Tax Anticipation Note for fiscal year 2008-2009.
- You can see 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.***