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Budget News for March 30, 2009

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has two distinct sections related to special education. Targeted funds known as the IDEA Recovery Fund and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF). Ross Valley is scheduled to receive \$225,400 from the IDEA funds for 2009-2010. It is not known at this time how much money RVSD will receive in SFSF.

In Special Education funding, districts are required to keep special ed funding at the prior year level – a Maintenance of Effort (MOE). It is not clear as to how the IDEA funds will affect the district's MOE requirement. A subcommittee from the Special Education Local Planning Agency (SELPA) is meeting to investigate how the funding will flow through the SELPA to the districts and implications for the MOE requirement.

At the local level, the Budget Advisory Committee discussed the results of the community survey on supplemental programs and forced ranking by the Committee. The four top ranked programs are: maintain library services at all school sites; maintain class sizes of 20:1 in grade K through 3; maintain 25 – 27 students per class in grades 4-5; maintain 25- 27 students per class in grades 6-8. The BAC will recommend to the Ross Valley Board to maintain these four programs.

Discussion of the survey results will continue at the next BAC meeting, April 2, 2009.

At the local level, the Budget Advisory Committee has completed their priority ranking of the "supplemental programs". The BAC will discuss the results, along with the Budget Survey results from the school and parent community at their meeting on March 26, 2009.

Highlights from the Board Meeting of Thursday, March 26, 2009

- The Board approved the Second Interim Budget. Revenues showed an increase of \$150,000 compared to projections when the budget was approved June 2008. The increased revenue and savings realized this year due to the district freeze on spending means that we will have to take fewer reductions to programs for 2009-2010.
- The Facilities Planning Advisory Committee is preparing to make a preliminary recommendation to the Board and asked for consensus to move forward on more work. A subgroup of the FPAC will review additional information on how Small Learning Communities can be achieved at the White Hill Middle School, consistent with the Strategic Plan.
- The Board reviewed progress to date on District Goals for 2008-2009. Preliminary recommendations for District Goals for 2009-2010 were made in the report. The Board approved a calendar to discuss goals, solicit input and adopt goals for 2009-2010 by the final Board meeting in June.

*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.