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Superintendent: Bryce Sumnick Board of Trustees: Gina Feiner Rick McCallum Sharon Sagar Jeanne Thompson Don Wilson

January 8, 2009

Dear Parents, Teachers, Staff and Community Members,

Happy New Year to you all! My best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

We greet 2009 with two challenges: the state budget crisis and increasing enrollment in the district. We know that the state budget crisis will force us to cut programs and personnel in order to balance the district's budget for the 2009-2010 school year. The second challenge, brought about by increasing enrollment, is the need for additional facilities. All our elementary sites are over capacity, and the middle school will not have enough classrooms to accommodate 6th, 7th and 8th grade classes by 2012.

This letter is to inform you of the state of the district on these two issues, what we are doing about them and how you can have input into the process to determine solutions to these challenges.

THE BUDGET CRISIS

The state faces a major crisis because of the collapse of state revenues. The revenue collapse is due in part to the national recession, but is compounded by the state's radical drop in home prices and high unemployment rate. The state faces an estimated \$41.6 billion deficit by June 2010. In order to pay all of the state's bills, the Governor warns that some payments will be made with registered warrants, commonly called IOUs. In Ross Valley School District, we will not need to issue IOUs since the District has sufficient funds to meet its payroll through the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

What has the District done to plan for significantly decreased budget during the 2008-2009 school year?

We implemented a freeze on spending this year in an effort to conserve cash and reduce expenditures for current programs. We have been reviewing all expenditures to determine whether the expenditures are absolutely necessary.

In response to last year's budget shortfall, RVSD reduced its budget by \$517,000 for the 2008-2009 school year. Those cuts included the following: (1) elimination of the district librarian and Information Literacy Specialist; (2) elimination of membership to Marin Teaching Network; (3) elimination of clerk typists at all the elementary schools; (4) elimination of the elementary PE coaches; (5) reduction in night time custodian positions at all school sites; (6) reduction of the White Hill Activities Director position to half time; (7) reduction of the budget for the Board for conferences and consultants; (8) elimination of one crossing guard position; (9) reduction in hours for payroll and food service; (10) reduction in summer hire for maintenance;

(11) reduction in hours for Human Resources and District Office Administrative Assistants positions; (12) reductions in materials and supplies; (13) reduction in expenditures for grounds keeping; (14) reduction in days for some administrative positions; (15) reduction of a teaching position at the middle school (restored in the fall and will continue in the 2009-2010 school year).

Thanks to your generous contributions, the YES Foundation raised an additional \$80,000 for 2008-2009 and was able to restore the elementary PE coaches. However this program and all other programs or services cut for 2008-2009 are not in the budget to be restored in 2009-2010.

What does this mean for RVSD? Under the budget the Governor proposed, we would need to make greater cuts for the coming school year. Some legislators are discussing even deeper cuts to education than is proposed by the Governor, while other legislators see a way to balance the budget with lesser reductions in education funding. We do not have a crystal ball as to what the exact amount will be once the budget is adopted, but we know there will be less funding for education in the final budget. Our best estimate is a loss of revenue of around \$750,000 which would mean that we must decrease spending by a total of approximately \$750,000 for the 2009-2010 school year.

What is our plan to deal with the cuts? We have begun reviewing all current year expenditures to determine which can be reduced / eliminated. We will seek input from our school community through the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) about which expenditures can be eliminated for the coming year. As members of the community and staff, we welcome you to attend all of the BAC meetings. If you are not able to attend but would like to participate in this process, please contact your BAC Representatives to discuss your views and comments as to where we can save funds. The list of BAC members and meeting dates is attached. BAC representatives will listen to and consider suggestions from you, representative groups, site staffs and bargaining units so all voices will be heard.

What happens next? The BAC and the administrative team, which consists of the superintendent, chief business official, assistant superintendent, principals and program directors, will develop a prioritized list of expenditures that can be reduced / eliminated and will submit that list to the Board. The Board will then review that list and decide which expenditures will be eliminated.

Because we know we will receive less funding from the state for the 2009-2010 school year, we are certain we will have to reduce staff. Reduction in staff will mean that layoff notices must be sent to teachers and administrators by March 15, 2009, and the Board must approve the sending of those layoff notices by February 26, 2009. Classified staff layoff notices are required 45 days prior to the implementation of the layoff.

INCREASING ENROLLMENT—NEED FOR MORE FACILITIES

The enrollment in our district is increasing rapidly. The kindergarten classes over the last three years have increased nearly 140 students. All our elementary campuses are full and we have even had to use the multipurpose and music rooms for classrooms at some sites. By 2012 when the current 2nd grade reaches White Hill, we will be short 3 classrooms at the middle school. In addition, the portable classrooms at White Hill must be replaced.

To address the need for additional facilities, the District has established a Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FPAC). The FPAC, consisting of approximately 40 community members, parents, teachers, staff and Board members, is charged with developing options for increasing the District's facilities to accommodate the growing enrollment. The FPAC will develop options over the next three months and present the best options to the Board of Trustees. The Board will then decide which option will best fit the needs of the District and whether to place a bond for additional facilities on the November 2009 ballot. All meetings of the FPAC are open to the public. You may also contact your committee representatives to give them your thoughts and comments. The FPAC meeting dates and a list of representatives is attached.

Through this challenging time, it is very important that we continue to work together as a community. Our goals for this District are clearly defined in the Strategic Plan. We are committed to providing outstanding programs for academic achievement and student learning, student social and emotional well-being, valuing staff and providing professional development, effective governance and shared decision making, improved communication, excellent facilities and prudent finance.

The YES Foundation plans to help us close some of the gap produced by the state shortfall. These are serious financial times. However, I am confident that, working together, we will meet the challenge that confronts us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryce Sumnick".

Bryce Sumnick
Superintendent

Enclosures

Budget Advisory Committee Participant Information
Facilities Planning Advisory Participant Information

Budget Advisory Committee—2008/2009

Meeting Information

Location: District Office Conference Room

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Meeting Dates:

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Thursday, April 9, 2009

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Format:

Members of the public are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend and would like your thoughts and comments consider in the process, please contact your representatives.

Participants

<p>Superintendent</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bryce Sumnick 	<p>Certified Staff – Site Representation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brookside Lower – Edieann Fleming 2. Brookside Lower - Tricia Maynard 3. Brookside Upper – Laura Graham 4. Manor – Jessica Jozwik 5. Wade Thomas – Tina Clinton 6. White Hill - TBD
<p>Board</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don Wilson (representative) 2. Gina Feiner (observer <u>only</u>) 3. Rick McCallum (observer <u>only</u>) 4. Sharon Sagar (observer <u>only</u>) 5. Jeanne Thompson (observer <u>only</u>) 	<p>Classified Staff – Site Representation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brookside Lower – Cori Kelly 2. Brookside Upper – Teresa Machado 3. Manor – Anne Siembieda 4. Wade Thomas – TBD 5. White Hill – Stephanie Fein
<p>District Administrators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kathleen Clow 2. Ian Johnson 3. Bret Joyner 4. Dennis Riley 5. Marci Trahan 	<p>Brookside Parents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brookside Upper - Diane Campbell 2. Brookside Upper - Mike Richman 3. Brookside Lower - Jim Wooster
<p>Site Principals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brookside Lower – David Finnane 2. Brookside Upper – Tracy Smith 3. Manor – Catalina Nocon 4. Wade Thomas – Chad Carvey 5. White Hill – Michele Patterson 	<p>Manor Parents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lamorna Swigart (MAP parent)
<p>RVTA Representative</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tim Lentini 	<p>Wade Thomas Parents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heidi Weller
<p>CSEA Representative</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sandy Batanides 2. Marsha Shannon 	<p>YES Foundation Representation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eva Holm

Facilities Planning Advisory Committee—2008/2009

Meeting Information

Location: Brookside Upper Campus – Multi-Purpose Room

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Format:

Members of the public are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend and would like your thoughts and comments considered in the process, please contact your representatives. Parents may contact their site parent representative or At-Large Committee members. Staff may contact teacher, RVTA, CSEA representatives or their building principal. All community members may contact their Town Council representatives, Trustee representatives or the Superintendent.

Participants

<p>Superintendent Bryce Sumnick</p>	<p>Brookside Parents 1. Diane Campbell 2. Lisa Graham</p>
<p>Facilitator Libby Dietrich</p>	<p>Manor Parents 1. Anne Capron 2. Jennifer Buchanan</p>
<p>Board 1. Sharon Sagar (representative) 2. Jeanne Thompson (representative) 3. Gina Feiner (observer <u>only</u>) 4. Rick McCallum (observer <u>only</u>) 5. Don Wilson (observer <u>only</u>)</p>	<p>Wade Thomas Parents 1. Sarah Shideler 2. Nancy Vernon</p>
<p>Site Principals 1. Brookside Lower – David Finnane 2. Brookside Upper – Tracy Smith 3. Manor – Catalina Nocon 4. Wade Thomas – Chad Carvey 5. White Hill – Michele Patterson</p>	<p>White Hill Parents 1. Jeff Thornton 2. Conn Hickey 3. Romy Taubman</p>
<p>District Administrators 1. Kathleen Clow 2. Ian Johnson 3. Bret Joyner 4. Dennis Riley 5. Marci Trahan</p>	<p>At Large Members 1. Chris Lyons 2. Heidi Weller</p>
<p>Teachers 1. Brookside Lower-Barbara Davis 2. Brookside Upper -Michael Bessonette 3. Manor – Mary Acord, Mitch Brown, Jessica Jozwik (will rotate attendance at meetings) 4. Wade Thomas -Tina Clinton 5. White Hill - Tim Lentini</p>	<p>San Anselmo Community Representatives 1. Peter Breen 2. Connie Rodgers</p>
<p>RVTA Representative 1. Laurel Ferrari</p>	<p>Fairfax Community Representatives 1. David Weinsoff 2. John Buchholz</p>
<p>CSEA Representatives 1. Teresa Machado 2. Maureen Moulton</p>	<p>Fairfax – San Anselmo Children’s Center Rep. 1. Heidi Tomsky</p>