

NEWS MESSENGER #11 JANUARY 14, 2010

Budget Information

Recently the Governor released his proposed budget for the next fiscal year. CTA is calling the proposal: "True Lies." **Remember that the proposal is a proposal and that the final budget will be decided some time between June and September.** Unfortunately school districts do react to the annual proposal. Last year the proposal was worse. SCUSD (Sacramento City Unified School District) is now estimating a \$30 million deficit, up from \$18 m. Part of the District's deficit has been created by using one time monies to run programs and then continuing the programs with general fund dollars. Additionally, the increase in non teacher positions and school sites has caused the rest.

The governor's proposal includes reducing the revenue amount per student by .38%. That will cost SCUSD about \$1.2 million. The proposal would reduce administrative funding in SCUSD and other districts and would reduce the revenue per student by the administrative amount. In other words, a shift in priorities. SCTA expects that SCUSD will want teachers to take reductions. Last year, SCUSD reduced SCTA unit salaries and benefits by over \$10,000,000 with the lay offs. At the same time, the district maintained or increased the program salaries, benefits and double pensions for other groups.

As reported earlier, SCTA expects lay offs of teachers and other unit members. The District is likely to issue lay off notices to other employee groups as in the past and then rescind them as in the past. Final lay off clarity will not be known until August.

At this point SCTA does not have all the necessary budget data that it had in the past. In prior years, the District and SCTA met regularly or received budget data to review fiscal matters. After our first meeting in September of this year, SCTA was told that fiscal meeting were cancelled and there have been none since. SCTA will be re-requesting information that has not yet been received. Based on the current circumstances, meetings may be necessary after the final state budget.

Hmong Charter School: A segregated school?

The district turned down a proposal from a charter group that wanted to form an "Independent Hmong Charter" school like the Sac High Independent Charter that operates as its own school district. Earlier last month, SCTA was asked if SCTA would consider a dependent charter school that was part of the District and followed the contract to compete with the new Hmong charter proponents. SCTA said it would consider one. At the same time, SCTA does have reservations about helping to create a segregated program and one operated by outside former administrators who continue to bash the teachers association at public school board meetings.

Sac Independent Charter High has not been the success for which the creators had high hopes. The Language Academy Independent Charter has a segregated population of Latino students and the data is not clear about their success.

Health Reform Taxes Hurt School Budgets and Teachers

Your site reps were in-serviced to help organize and call House member Matsui and others to urge them to vote against any excise tax on benefits. See your rep for info.

Crab Dinner for Scholarships for Students: Saturday, February 6 at the Elks

Feel a little crabby after reading all the above. Well then, join the crowd and share some camaraderie and misery and fun at the annual Crab Dinner. Prices are the same and so will be the fun. SCTA has invited the School Board and administration.

