



President's Newsletter

February 28, 2008

BUDGET CUTS

At last night's School Board meeting, several proposals were made regarding how to save the \$1.1 million dollars the district will be short next year. None of this has been officially voted on as of yet, but the following proposals were unofficially agreed upon by the SB. Here are the highlights of how MBUTA members may be affected:

- 10 sections will be cut at Mira Costa, through attrition. This is 2 teacher positions.
- The 20:1 ratio at K-2 is safe for now.
- The 20:1 ratio for 3rd grade and 9th grade English is being evaluated and may be eliminated.
- The Adapted P.E. position will be cut from 1.2 positions to 1 full time position.
- The EL Instructional Assistant positions will remain the same.
- One psychologist position will be unfilled (member leaving).
- One Sp Ed teacher position at the K+ program will be unfilled (teacher leaving), and the program will be reconfigured.
- It was the general consensus that no Counselor or EA positions are on the chopping block.
- The Kindergarten Readiness Academy will be cut.
- TOSA positions, as expected, are being reconsidered.

These and other cuts, funding transfers, and rearrangements are the equivalent of \$800,000. The district is still looking to cut \$300,000. Among the cuts, the School Board cut their own salaries, resulting in a savings of \$16,000. District Office salaries were transferred and reallocated so that 2.4 of their salaries no longer come from the General Fund but from other sources, freeing up that money for teacher salaries and other considerations. The board has also met with City Council members to seek a financial liaison between the city and school district, but has received no offer of help as of yet.

The school board must approve the above cuts and the impact of the cuts for our members must be negotiated. The board meets for this purpose on March 5.

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE AFFECTS YOU

Email me at rachelmbuta@aol.com, preferably from your personal email account. If we would like to organize to protest any of these changes, I need to know NOW to start planning action. If I don't hear from you, I will assume you are OK with the proposals listed above.