

RBTA Board Talk

April 6, 2010

Board Videocast (<http://www.rbusd.org/boevideoarchives>):
Minute 54:00 - RBTA Comments



The following teachers presented this information to the School Board:

- Amy Santa Cruz, RBTA President
- Laurel Wade, Madison Elementary teacher
- Michelle Kelly, RBTA Elementary Director
- Lani Sarichild, RUHS teacher
- Traci Hamilton, RUHS teacher

RBTA believes that furlough days are detrimental to the overall well being of the district. Furlough days could mean a shorter instructional year for students which could impact student learning. They also mean an additional teacher pay cut.

In looking at the Second Interim Report Summary of Reserves for Economic Uncertainty, it shows that the district currently has 3.84% reserve which in dollars is \$2,553,465. The .84% is \$526,318. You wouldn't have to use all of it (even though you can go down to as little as 1%) to support the classroom and teachers. You have stated over and over that you want to save teachers' jobs - and that you want to keep the cuts as far way from the classroom as possible.

General Fund Reserves

<u>Summary of Reserves for Economic Uncertainties</u>							
	2nd Interim 1/31/10	1st Interim 10/31/09	6/30/09	6/30/08	6/30/07	6/30/06	6/30/05
General Fund Expenditures (Line B9)	66,561,827	64,921,893	67,439,681	68,876,442	64,067,295	59,179,366	56,133,010
Reserves for Economic Uncertainties							
General Fund 01 (Line 2b)	596,430	629,316	575,397	465,076	985,523	957,112	722,598
Special Reserve Fund 17 (Line F2b)	1,957,035	1,957,035	2,167,035	2,333,938	2,437,934	2,533,525	2,652,099
Reserve Balance	2,553,465	2,586,351	2,742,432	2,799,014	3,423,457	3,490,637	3,374,697
Reserve %	3.84%	3.98%	4.1%	4.1%	5.3%	5.9%	6.0%

One furlough day is \$220,000 for everyone in the district- that shuts the district down completely- no one is at work. Two furlough days is \$440,000.

The district can also use the PARS Early Retirement money which after paying out to the retired teachers will bring in \$236,912 extra dollars to cover a furlough day. The savings could be even greater with further attrition.

The teachers do not support furlough days next year for teachers or for staff. The district would not need to have any furlough days because you can use a small portion of the Reserves for Economic Uncertainty to cover those days. Even so, the reserve will not go below 3%. Should you end up paying back the \$150,000 food services penalty, you will still be over the 3% reserve. RBTA encourages the District to seek a waiver for the \$150,000.

Teachers have already taken thousands of dollars in cuts over the past 2 years due to the increase in the Health and Welfare benefits costs. After many years of the district picking up the increase in premiums, certificated and classified employees agreed to pay for it. This amount has grown substantially over the past 2 years and the burden of that increase is likely to continue causing the teachers to have to pay even more out of pocket for their families' health benefits.

Going to an increased class size of 24.9 to 1 saves nearly a half a million dollars. If the district were to contain class size reduction to 24.9 to 1, which we believe is the lesser of many evils, you would not need to lay off teachers.

The district has widely stated goals about levels of achievement. In order to reach those goals, all cuts need to be made as far away from the classroom as possible. We can all agree that teachers make a lifelong impact on students.

The district should also look at reducing administrative services from 12 months to 11 months. There will be a very limited summer school program run by Marymount. The question must be- what administrative services could be condensed in order to save dollars?

We know you have had hard decisions this year and that it won't be getting any easier for awhile. We believe we have brought forward viable alternatives to further teacher layoffs and further cuts that would directly impact the classroom.