

# 3-23-10 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Board Videocast (<http://www.rbusd.org/boevideoarchives>):

Minute 1:33:25 -RBTA Comments

## **RBTA COMMENTS:**

### **Statement #1- read by Amy Santa Cruz, RBTA President and Madison Elementary teacher**

When talking about monies eligible for sweeping by the district, or in other words monies that can be used for general fund purposes rather than the original intent, why isn't the district looking harder at the textbook money? In this time of need, with the state saying that textbook adoption cycles can be postponed, why isn't the district supporting the contact staff, those who daily teach the children and work long and hard hours to support student learning, THE TEACHERS, with some of that textbook money? Being Tier 3, textbook money could be swept to the general fund and used to support the classroom.

Some of the textbook money could be used to support teachers while still leaving money to support the replacement of missing or damaged textbooks. A highly qualified teacher is more valuable to a student than a textbook- textbooks go out of date while excellent teaching never does!

### **Statement #2 – read by Anita Stoddard, RBTA High School Director and RUHS teacher**

For the type of district that we are- our required reserve for economic uncertainty is 3%. Now the legislators have determined that we can drop to one third of the reserve which is 1%. The original proposal did list 1.5% but the reality is that a unified school district can drop to 1%. Therefore, once again we are asking the school board to look to the reserve of 3.8%. By using .8% of our reserve, we would free up more than a half a million dollars.

By releasing our reserve money, you would support the education of each and every student in this district and provide them the opportunity to attend a full 180 day school year, you would be supporting the teachers by putting a hold on any further negative salary. You would be telling us that you have done every possible thing to hold back the bad tidings for one more year in the hope that the economic climate will turn for the better. You would be telling all teachers in Redondo that you believe in us and our school district and want to support us.

### **Statement #3- read by Monica Joyce, RBTA Bargaining Chair and Tulita Elementary teacher**

You have money in textbooks that won't impact the replacement of books, **use it**

You have money in the reserve that will not take you below the sacrosanct 3%, **use it**

After many years of having the district pick up the increase in H and W benefits, 3 years ago the teachers agreed to absorb that increase and have continued to do so. For the teachers, that represents more than a \$1000 a year pay cut placed on top of zero Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

Again, this is the rainy day the reserves were meant to be used for - your decisions in the following days will make the difference between a storm or a light shower.