



Santa Monica Malibu Schools

January 8, 2010

Dear SMMUSD Parents,

We can all take pride in the accomplishments of our district and its students. During the State of Our Schools presentations this fall, I reported that our district's students continue to grow and outperform other districts on the state and national performance levels. This could not have been accomplished without the dedication and commitment of all district employees to the success of our students. Their efforts have made a difference in the lives and futures of the students that we serve.

I also reported that the district has had to deal with a major state budget shortfall to education over the last two years, resulting in the district making \$4.5 million in cuts last year. As a result, the district must continue to prepare to make significant budget reductions to maintain a balanced budget, as required by law. These reductions, based on current information, could be as much as \$8 million for the 2010-11 school year. Indications are coming from Sacramento that when the Governor proposes the 2010-11 state budget this month, there will still be multi-billion dollar deficits and most likely continued under funding of public schools. The budget picture could worsen.

During the next six months, the Board of Education will be studying potential revenue enhancements and budget reductions. Examples of these include:

- a new parcel tax to offset a portion of this shortfall
- a reduction in the school year by five days
- increases in class size at all grade levels
- additional positions being cut at the district office and school sites
- additional energy and utilities conservation
- fewer summer school class offerings
- reductions of support staff such as librarians, nurses, counselors, and classroom aides

The board and district administration take their fiduciary and financial responsibilities seriously and will be making decisions in the best overall interest of the students, parents, community, and staff in preparation of the 2010-11 budget. You are encouraged to attend board meetings and budget presentations (calendar on page two) to learn more about the impact of the states funding short fall on the district's budget. The schedule of board meetings can be found on the district web site and specific budget materials can be found at <http://www.smmusd.org/fiscal/0910BudgetInfo.html>.

Preserving strong educational programs and minimizing layoffs continues to be a high priority of the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Tim Cuneo

Superintendent

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

1651 Sixteenth Street • Santa Monica • California 90404-3891 • (310) 450-8338 • www.smmusd.org

Board of Education: Ben Allen • Oscar de la Torre • José Escarce • Maria Leon Vazquez • Ralph Mechur • Kelly Pye • Barry Snell
Tim Cuneo, Superintendent

Budget presentation dates to SMMUSD parents and communities:

Wednesday, January 20 (Samohi cafeteria)

7:00-9:00pm – Santa Monica High School parents/community

Thursday, January 21 (MHS auditorium)

7:00-9:00pm – Malibu High School pathway parents/community

Tuesday, January 26 (JAMS cafeteria)

7:00-9:00pm – John Adams Middle School pathway parents/community

Wednesday, January 27 (LMS cafeteria)

7:00-9:00pm – Lincoln Middle School pathway parents/community

Please note: Feel free to attend a different session if you are not available during your scheduled pathway date. Preschool parents can attend any of the above sessions.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

1651 Sixteenth Street • Santa Monica • California 90404-3891 • (310) 450-8338 • www.smmusd.org

Board of Education: Ben Allen • Oscar de la Torre • José Escarce • Maria Leon Vazquez • Ralph Mechur • Kelly Pye • Barry Snell
Tim Cuneo, Superintendent