

# Eye On The Board

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## Board Highlights February 24, 2009

Reported by Mariann Klinger

### District readies for serious cuts in 50 programs

State deficits will push the district's budget down by about 2.6 percent. That's a "hard cash reduction of \$2.8 million this year," according to Chief Business Officer **James Earhart**.

Earhart provided the trustees with figures that showed the downward trend in calculations as state budget news unfolds.

Trustee **Kathryn Ramirez** called on the district to hire a grant writer to recoup program cuts. "We're in different times," she said.

The \$90 million first interim budget is to look more like \$82.9 million after all the cuts are made. By next year another \$1.5 million is likely to be eliminated from the district's budget, according to Earhart's report.

The state's budget will provide no COLA for this year or next year. Even the .68 percent COLA in the 2008-2009 Budget Act was eliminated.

In 2008-2009 more than 50 categorical programs are cut. A program for home to school transportation and the Quality Education Investment Act at LPMS are to be funded at 2007-2008 levels.

Many of the programs will be cut as much as 15 percent this year and an additional 4.5 percent in 2009-2010. Among those programs are the Agricultural Vocational Education and the English Language Acquisition Program.

Adult Education and the Regional Occupation Program, set for the cuts, are programs that "just barely get by now," said Earhart.

The cuts \$805,000 from Adult Ed and \$700,000 from ROP budgets "must be dealt with right away," Earhart told trustees. The cuts amount to "a lot of money in a short period of time."

Earhart said that although many of the programs will be cut, the state allowed flexibility in how the remaining funds are to be used.

The district is considering a special education program review to look for cost-saving measures. The review by School Innovations and Advocacy is to cost \$17,000.

SVFT Co-president **Kyle Samuels** expressed concern that the district's non-rehires seem to be from among older teachers with years of experience. "I want to know what's going on," he asked trustees.

Samuels said he was discussing the issue with head of human resources, Associate Superintendent **Alejandro Hogan**.

## **Policies**

Trustees adopted policies on the budget (BP 3100) and financial reporting (BP3460) by a vote of 7-0 along with the consent agenda.

### **(First reading)**

BP 5116.1 – Intra-District Open Enrollment/  
School Choice

BP 6141.5 – Advanced Placement

BP 6142.7 – Physical Education

BP 6142.8 – Comprehensive Health Education

BP 6172 – Gifted and Talented Program

BP 6173.1 – Education for Foster Youth

BP 6178.1 – Work Experience Education

BP 6178.2 – Regional Occupation

Center/Program

BP 0520.3 – Title I Program Improvement Districts

BP 1340 – Access to District Records

BP 9012 – Board Member Electronic

Communications

BP 9223 – Filling Vacancies

BP 4112.2 – Certification

BP 4112.21 – Interns

BP 4131 – Staff Development