

# Eye On The Board

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## Board Highlights May 12, 2009

Reported by Mariann Klinger

### Adult School budget plan reflects cuts

Calling it the “most serious impact to the adult school in our lifetime,” **H. Robert Harper** introduced the SAS budget for 2009-10.

The plan incorporates nearly \$1 million in program cuts – a budget 80 percent down from the current year.

Some programs are completely axed, although that is not the message we’re getting from our community, he said.

“We’re having people scared and unemployed coming into our building.”

Harper said administrators tried to build an instructional program within the parameters of the funding cuts in an effort to see “crisis as opportunity.”

Program and employee cuts hit across the board, said Harper, SAS directors.

The new budget accounts for cuts in administration, 60 to 70 temporary teachers and 5 to 7 classified workers.

Because of an employment crisis, career education came in with the least cuts (9 percent); ESL came in second (19 percent), while the program for older adults is set for a 44 percent reduction.

In addition, Harper said administration cuts will focus on running the operation more efficiently.

In the end, the 90-year-old school will run at approximately 71 percent of the current year’s program and serve about 80 percent of students served this year. SAS generally serves more than 20,000 students a year.

The budget plan was developed with the help of students, parents, staff and administrators, as well as representatives of area service clubs and community organizations, according to Harper.

“We will not dismantle a historically respected and successful adult school,” he added.

At an earlier meeting in April, Harper said the result could have been worse and, in fact, there could be more to come. The flexibility in the state’s budget allows districts to use monies earmarked for ROP and adult schools any way they choose.

In Pajaro, that translated to an additional \$500,000 cut when the district put money earmarked for the adult school in the general fund. In Hunting Beach, the district saved \$2 million by cutting adult school parenting and older adult programs.

At that meeting, Chief Business Officer **James Earhart** told trustees that with the monies for ROP and the SAS going to the general fund decisions to maintain

those programs would come at the expense of other educational programs.

The district might make some adjustments to the SAS and ROP as a result of promised stimulus money, but the programs are not going to be the same as they have been, said Earhart.

Stimulus money could amount to \$1.5 million with another \$2.6 million for special education and still more from the state. But, said Earhart, the funds are one-time only money.

And “there’s still no check in the mail,” said Superintendent **Roger Anton**.

# Four board seats open for Nov. vote

The board called for an election Nov. 3, when four trustees reach the end of their terms.

Seats in Trustee Areas 1, 3, 5, 7 will be open at the time of the election. Currently, Trustee **James Reaves** holds the seat in Area 1, Trustee **Phillip Tabera** in Area 3, Trustee **Margaret Serna-Bonetti** in Area 5 and Trustee **Lila Cann** in Area 7. Each will have completed a four-year term in 2009.

Area 1 includes Harden Middle School and the north and far west boundaries of the city.

Area 3 takes in neighborhoods above Market and includes North Salinas High School.

Area 5 includes the Alisal neighborhood area, Alisal and Everett Alvarez high schools and La Paz Middle School.

Area 7 takes in Salinas High School, Washington Middle School and areas south of the city.

## Special Ed review finds few areas in non-compliance

Following a review, the district's special education program was found to be non-compliant in five of 24 areas monitored by a state team, according to Special Education Director Nancy Jones.

The district disclosed plans to correct the non-compliant areas. Jones said several of the corrective actions were already taken. Those actions involved changes in (SELPA) reporting forms, she said.

Jones said the problem is not likely to surface again, since the district is going to a web-based IEP that won't allow a form to be processed unless all areas are completed.

In addition, Jones said the team looked for documentation on goals for ELL students in English language development and collaboration between Bilingual/Migrant Education and Special Education.

## Policies

BB 9320 – Meetings and Notices. (The mandated bylaw revision reflects new law defining prohibited serial meetings as a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of district business.)