

MDUSD MONDAY MEMO

A Weekly Update of District Activities and Education-related Issues
from the Superintendent's Office, Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Week of January 5, 2009

To Members of the Mt. Diablo Education Community,

Happy New Year! Our schools opened calmly on Monday after the two-week Winter Break. I hope this is a sign that everyone had a restful and satisfying holiday and is feeling refreshed as the year begins. We have some hard work ahead of us right away. The financial news out of Sacramento continues to be grim, giving us no respite from our budget cutting process, which will resume at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, January 13.

There is some good news to share this first week of the year. In fact, we postponed distribution of the Monday Memo for two days so we could announce that the . . .

. . . Board approves teachers contract

At a special meeting on Tuesday, January 6, the MDUSD Board of Education approved a new three-year contract, for years 2007-2010, with the Mt. Diablo Education Association (MDEA).

The most significant component of the contract relates to medical benefits. It calls for the District to begin helping to pay some of the costs for teachers who subscribe to a District medical plan. Eight years ago the union had chosen to receive salary in lieu of medical benefits, but increases in health care costs since then have created a hardship, particularly for teachers who have families. Of all the school districts in which teachers have opted to pay their own medical benefit costs, Mt. Diablo is the first to begin paying a portion of them again.

The District and MDEA bargaining teams spent 18 months in negotiations and reached a tentative agreement in late November. Just before Winter Break it was ratified, with 90 percent of MDEA members voting for it. Following that vote the Contra Costa County Office of Education reviewed the disclosure documents and verified that the District can afford to implement the agreement. The final step was taken last night with the Board of Education's unanimous vote to approve the contract.

At last night's meeting MDEA President Mike Noce said that, with the settlement, there's now the chance "to build a positive relationship with the District as real partners so we can face our challenges as a team." MDUSD Board President Gary Eberhart thanked District staff and the bargaining team and Mike Noce and the teachers for their part in reaching this agreement. He agreed with Noce that it's now time for "working together in concert with our teachers and with our employees to move forward with the mission of the school district."

Action on budget reductions and revenue enhancements begins

At a special meeting on December 16, 2008, the Board of Education began to approve items on the Budget Reduction List that has been developed over the past few months. The current goal, based on the state budget adopted last September, is to reduce the 2009-2010 District budget by \$6.6 million. We hope we will not have to make cuts in this year's budget beyond the \$14 million the Board approved last Spring. Unfortunately, the plans being proposed by the State Legislature and the Governor to address shortfalls in this year's state budget would require more cuts to our budget.

We will periodically update the list of proposed budget reductions and the action taken on them over the next month. The information can be viewed on the District web site, www.mdusd.k12.ca.us, by clicking on "MDUSD Budget Reductions in the box titled "Budget Reduction Info" and then on the pdf file "MDUSD Budget Reduction List."

The following Budget Reduction List items were approved by the Board on December 16. The vote was 5-0-0 except where noted.

- Item 2: Reduce one (1) Parts Controller position. Fiscal Impact: \$67,533
- Item 21: Reduce contributions to summer school. Fiscal Impact: \$369,462
- Item 24: Reduce budget for Student Information System by \$420,000 one time in 2008-09. Fiscal Impact: \$420,000, one-time
- Item 27: Eliminate one (1) vacant Occupational Therapy Assistant position. Fiscal Impact: \$56,733
- Item 29(a): Shift the cost of the Administrative Secretary's position in Technology and Information Services to the CSIS grant for the 2009-10 school year. Fiscal Impact: \$60,000, one-time
- Item 33: Shift funding for one (1) FTE Senior Account Clerk to 70% Developer Fee and 30% Food Services. Fiscal Impact: \$65,494
- Item 39: Reduce the General Purpose contribution to Curriculum and Instruction by \$115,358, with the actual position(s) determined by staff.
- Item 46: Eliminate one (1) Carpenter position. Fiscal Impact: \$78,036
- Item 47: Eliminate one (1) Electro-Mechanical Technician Apprentice position. Fiscal Impact: \$78,895
- Item 58: Reduce 1.5 FTE staffing assigned to Mt. Diablo High School. Fiscal Impact: \$81,643
- Item 70: Implement a "Just in Time" program for ordering and delivering office and custodial supplies directly to district sites and departments instead of to the warehouse. Fiscal Impact: Will reduce the inventory value level from \$500,000 to \$250,000.
- Item 48: Eliminate two (2) Heating and A/C Mechanic positions. Fiscal Impact: \$161,748 (Mayo, no)
- Item 49: Eliminate one (1) Plumber position. Fiscal Impact: \$71,936
- Item 50: Eliminate one (1) Glazier position. Fiscal Impact: \$81,696
- Item 55: Reduce Worker's Compensation Manager position. Fiscal Impact: \$130,694 (Allen, Mayo, no)

The Board also voted to remove two items, #15, transferring a portion of the staffing cost of five (5) elementary P.E. Teachers to the P.E. Incentive Grant (as the grant does not allow it) and # 69, a 1% salary reduction for all employees, effective 2009-2010.

The Board will consider more budget reductions at its next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, January 13, at Monte Gardens Elementary School, 3841 Larkspur Drive, Concord, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The full agenda will be posted on the Board of

Education page on the District web site ("Agenda for Current Meeting") late Friday, January 9.

Transfer application period ends JANUARY 15

The annual Open Enrollment period for Intradistrict Transfer applications, which began on October 1, 2008, ends on Thursday, January 15. During this period parents who live in the District may submit an application requesting that their student(s) go to a school outside their official attendance area in the 2009-10 school year.

Intradistrict Transfer applications are available at schools and in the Student Services Department at the District Office, 1936 Carlotta Drive, Concord, CA 94519. They are to be returned by mail or in person to the Student Services Department. **No applications will be accepted after the January 15 deadline.**

If more requests are received for a specific school than there is space available, Student Services staff will conduct a public lottery to fill what openings there are at the site. Once a student is enrolled, the transfer is in effect at that school through 5th grade for elementary, 8th grade for middle, and 12th grade for high school with one exception: A transfer student may be displaced up until September 15 of each school year by a student who lives in the school's attendance area.

Monte Gardens and Sequoia elementary schools and the Cornerstone program at Ygnacio Valley Elementary have a separate admissions process. Parents should contact those sites directly for information about enrolling their child(ren).

In others' words . . . New Year's resolutions

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."--Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"I believe that the message of Apollo XI was that in the spirit of Apollo, a free and open spirit, you can attack a very difficult goal and achieve it, if you can all agree and work together to achieve that goal."--Neil Armstrong, astronaut

"Give me about 10 years, I'm going to run for President. If I can squeeze in an NBA championship before that, I'll do it."--Will Smith, successful actor

Call for stories highlighting students and staff

Next week we hope to share some stories and photos of recent student, school, and department activities. Contributions are welcome and appreciated. Send information and, if available, a photo to Sue Berg, Communications Specialist, at bergs@mdusd.k12.ca.us.

**Gary McHenry
Superintendent**

Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Web Site: www.mdusd.k12.ca.us

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