

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 12, 2009

To the Members of the Mt. Diablo schools community,

Fifty-five million dollars. Nearly one-third of what the Mt. Diablo Unified School District is currently spending on employee salaries. Fifty-five million dollars. The amount of the deficit our District would be facing in June 2011 under the budget Governor Schwarzenegger proposed for 2009-10 on New Year's Eve.

Yesterday, Monday, January 12, several of us from the District attended a workshop in Sacramento to hear a presentation on the impact of the Governor's budget proposal on education.

The financial news just seems to be getting worse.

Over the last two months I have been informing you of the State of California fiscal crisis and its impact on Mt. Diablo Unified. Board of Education and staff members have been working on a plan to reduce expenses in 2009-10 by at least \$6.6 million in order to maintain a balanced budget. That plan is prompted by the state budget approved for this year. At tonight's Board meeting, to be held at Monte Gardens Elementary School next door to the District Office starting at 7:30 p.m., the Board will consider approximately \$3 million in reductions.

Based on what we learned at yesterday's workshop, the current reductions pale in comparison to what's ahead of us if the Governor's proposal, or anything similar to it, is approved. Under that proposal, the District would receive \$10.2 million less in state revenue this year, \$15 million less next year, and \$21.2 million less in 2010-11. Despite our stringent budget cutting, expenses to maintain District operations do continue to increase.

A group of employees, union leaders, and parents has begun meeting to discuss the feasibility of asking voters in the District to approve a parcel tax. I will report more on that subject next week. This week I simply want to share the news we heard yesterday, that this budget crisis is truly extraordinary. From contacting our state legislators to considering placing a parcel tax on the ballot, we all need to do what we can to maintain our District programs and services for students.

Thank you for the help and support you are already giving.

Respectfully,
Gary McHenry

Applications for transfer due Thursday, 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).

Students and Staff in action

Clayton Valley High students reach out



After some of them had just performed in "A Christmas Carol" at their school for three nights in a row, members of the Clayton Valley High Improv team entertained at the Children's Home Society's annual "Tell me A Story" Brunch on Saturday, December 20 at the Marriott in San Ramon. As they have for the past ten years, CVHS student actors sang with the children and families and acted out Christmas stories. Their proud teacher and director is Tom Wills.

Band director returns to conduct again



Len Walker, who taught at Clayton Valley High from 1969-1988 and was the band director through 1985, took a turn as Guest Conductor at the Clayton Valley instrumental music concert on December 11. For the sixth consecutive year, teacher/music director Mundi Viar and his student musicians welcomed alumni, parents, teachers, and friends to join the CV Wind Ensemble for the grand finale, "Sleigh Ride." Alumni from the early and late 1970s, as well as more recent graduates, CV teachers, and parents shared in the music.

Children at Holbrook Elementary students climb up, down, and all around

At the end of their first week back from Winter Break, Holbrook Elementary students, staff, and parents held a celebration. For the first time since the school's playground equipment was destroyed by fire during Summer 2008, children could climb, slide, and dangle from monkey bars again. In August the MDUSD Board of Education approved funding for this project and also to replace fire-destroyed play equipment at Woodside Elementary. Principal Nancy Dasho-Edwards let a brief dedication ceremony on the Holbrook playground on Friday, January 9, and then the real fun began.



In the words of . . . Martin Luther King, Jr., January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968

Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.

We must combine the toughness of the serpent with the softness of the dove, a tough mind with a tender heart.

The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers.

Sooner or later, all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together.

**Gary McHenry
Superintendent**

**Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Web Site: www.mdusd.k12.ca.us**

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