

# 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 February 2, 2009

## Board approves further budget reductions

At its meeting on Tuesday, January 27, the Board of Education continued to work its way through a series of budget reductions, nearing the goal of cutting \$6.6 million from the District's budget for this and the next two years. The list of proposed budget reductions, the action taken on them, and information on the state budget can be accessed on the District web site, [www.mdusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us), in the box titled "Budget Emergency."

Budget reduction items the Board approved at the December 16, 2008, and the January 13, 2009, meetings were listed in last week's *Monday Memo*, which also can be accessed on the District web site. Those approved at the January 27 meeting are as follows (vote was 5-0-0 except as noted):

- Item 13        Eliminate contribution to Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) by 50 to 80%. Fiscal Impact: \$160,000. Program Impact: Must be negotiated.
- Item 14        Eliminate contribution to Beginning Teachers Support and Assessment (BTSA) 50 to 80%. Fiscal Impact: \$160,000. Program Impact: Must be negotiated.
- Item 45        Eliminate Senior Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/ Communications Specialist. Fiscal Impact: \$100,575 (Allen, Mayo, no)
- Item 52        Eliminate one (1) Senior Typist Clerk position in Purchasing. Fiscal Impact: \$62,682.
- Item 75        Eliminate a total of 6 directors and/or assistant directors and direct the superintendent to bring a recommendation to the Board on February 10, 2009, for the actual positions to be cut. Fiscal Impact: \$600,000 (Allen, Mayo, no)
- Item 83        Reduce Horizons staffing by one (1) additional FTE. Fiscal Impact: \$64,429.

The total amount of the approved reductions now exceeds \$5 million. The Board will continue to consider and approve cuts at its two meetings in February, the 10th and the 24th. Budget changes will be incorporated in the District's Second Interim Report, which must be submitted to the Contra Costa County Office of Education in March.

## Student and Staff Successes

## PTA displays student art

A treat awaits visitors to the Board Room at the MDUSD Dent Center these days. Posted along one wall are student stories, a poem, drawings, photographs, and other art work, each contributed to the Mt. Diablo Council Parent Teacher Association's annual *Reflections* program. Works by three of the student artists have been sent on to the State PTA for recognition: A photograph, "Icicles," by **Shirowid Sharma of Gregory Gardens Elementary**; a photograph, "Small Dog in a Big World," by **Felicia Tanguileg of Valley View Middle**; and photographs showing "What I've Done," the dance choreography of **Devon Magee of College Park High**.

According to the California PTA website, the Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and receive positive recognition for original works of art, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education. Students may submit art work in any of the following areas: literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, and film/video production. Their work is evaluated in one of four levels: Preschool to Grade 2; Grades 3-5; Grades 6-8; and Grades 9-12.

Through the Reflections Program PTAs recognize students at the local unit, council, PTA district, state and national levels. Entries are first judged at the local unit level. Selected works are chosen to represent the PTA at each subsequent level. Award of Excellence and Awards of Merit are recognized at the annual National PTA convention and are displayed as part of the program's traveling exhibit.

## CMEA recognizes music teacher

**Northgate High instrumental music teacher Greg Brown** was honored by the Bay Section of the California Music Educators Association (CMEA) in January for outstanding achievement in music education. Brown was the unanimous first-ballot selection by his peers for the Gilbert T. Freitas Annual Memorial Board. Northgate Principal John McMorris was not surprised. He said, "Greg is one of the best there is!"

## Teachers share tech insights

Middle school teachers **Dave Klein of Foothill** and **Shauna Hawes of Valley View** take time after sharing their technical expertise with students to share it with the world at large. They are the featured authors for a new column, "On the Road," that appears on the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) Region 4's web site. Their articles highlight creative uses of technology in the classroom. Check them out at <http://www.ctap4.net/ontheroad/>.

## In others' words . . . advice from some First Ladies

*"The power of a book lies in its power to turn a solitary act into a shared vision. As long as we have books, we are not alone."*-Laura Bush

*"If you don't accept failure as a possibility, you don't set high goals, you don't branch out, you don't try - you don't take the risk."*-Rosalyn Carter.

*"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts."*-Eleanor Roosevelt

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