

# 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 November 17, 2008

## Timeline for discussions, Board action on budget reductions

As a result of the state budget passed last September the MDUSD budget will have a revenue expenditure gap of more than \$6.6 million next year, 2009-10. After reducing this year's District budget by \$14 million in a combination of ongoing and one-time funds over a series of meetings last Spring, the Board of Education reluctantly began planning for a new round of reductions in late October.

On November 6 the Governor announced the need to make cuts in this year's state budget. If the State Legislature approves his proposal, MDUSD will lose \$11 million in state funding during the current school year.

Without legislative action on the Governor's proposal, the MDUSD Board is focusing on the known need to reduce next year's budget. Discussions on the budget and ideas for cuts, cost savings, and revenue enhancements are taking place. The timeline of upcoming public and committee meetings is outlined below. Some will be held at school sites throughout the District.

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| 11/18/08 | Public hearing on budget reductions; 7 p.m., Board Room, Dent Center. Continue to add items to the list for consideration.   |
| 11/25/08 | Regular Board meeting and public hearing on budget reductions; 7:30 p.m., Dent Center. Complete list to be developed by this date.                                 |
| 12/1/08  | Superintendent's meeting with District labor leaders<br>Special Ed. Community Advisory Committee monthly meeting   |
| 12/3/08  | Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council monthly meeting   |
| 12/9/08  | Regular Board meeting and public hearing on budget reductions; 7:30 p.m., Board Room, Dent Center<br>First Interim Report to be approved by the Board of Education |
| 12/11/08 | MDUSD Budget Advisory Committee meeting  |
| 12/16/08 | Special Board meeting and public hearing; 7:00 p.m., school site, to be determined. Begin process of reducing the budget.  |
| 1/13/09  | Regular Board meeting; 7:30 p.m., site to be determined. Continue process of reducing the budget   |
| 1/27/09  | Regular Board meeting; 7:30 p.m., site to be determined. Continue process of reducing the budget   |
| 2/10/09  | Regular Board meeting; 7:30 p.m., site to be determined. Complete process of reducing the budget   |

Information relevant to budget reductions is posted on home page of the District web site, [www.mdusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us) under "MDUSD Budget Reductions" and updated regularly.

### Spotlight on Teachers

**Rich Dodson**, 6th grade language arts/social studies teacher at Sequoia Middle School, was named "Educator of the Year" at the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce's 37th Annual Community Awards Night on November 12. Rich was described as "a master at tapping into the varied interests and diverse cultures of his students to foster learning at the highest level." He created an after-school intramural sports program, has fostered the school's "Good News Home" postcards, and revived teacher and student interest in the weekly "Pat on the Back" program. He has "helped to make our school a learning place of laughter and fun," said his nominee.

Teachers **Kathleen Byle**, also of Sequoia Middle, and **Jacques Casamajor** of Valley View Middle are finalists for the California League of Middle Schools, Region 4, Educator of the Year award, which will be presented at a dinner on December 2 at St. Mary's College.

### Mt. Diablo Adult Education Open House and Craft Sale: December 6

Looking for beautiful artwork, wooden items and toys, quilted and knit pieces, jewelry, ceramics, china painting, woodcarvings, AND the opportunity to enroll in adult education classes? All are available to visitors at the annual Open House and Craft Sale that Mt. Diablo Adult Education staff and students are hosting on Saturday, December 6. The event is being held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Education Center, One Santa Barbara Road in Pleasant Hill. Coordinator Judith Sosnowski says, "Bring a friend, spend some time, and prepare to be dazzled by the many handcrafted items created in the numerous courses offered at Mt. Diablo Adult Education." For more information, phone Judith at (925) 682-8000, ext 3911.

### Teachers needed at home

The MDUSD Home & Hospital Program is looking for teachers to serve ill or injured students in grades K-12 who are unable to attend school for more than two weeks and students with special needs who are being assessed or going through the pre-expulsion process. High school teachers are especially needed at this time.

Each Home & Hospital Teacher serves an individual student for 5 hours a week, usually in the student's home with another adult present. The hourly rate is \$25, with mileage also covered. Teachers must have a standard, not an emergency, credential. Many retired teachers sign up for this service; some active teachers also take on students after their work day.

Interested teachers are invited to contact the Home & Hospital Program office at (925) 363-3408 or email at [homhosp@mdusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:homhosp@mdusd.k12.ca.us). An interview and orientation will be arranged.

## U.S. Department of Education offers two new web sites

Two new web-based resources from the federal department of education will help a number of people to further their education.

- USA Learns at [www.usalearns.org](http://www.usalearns.org) provides limited-English proficient immigrants free English language training.
- The other site, [www.college.org](http://www.college.org), encourages students to pursue higher education and provides information and tools for preparing, planning and paying for college.

## In others' words . . . from President-elect Barack Obama

*"The fact that my 15 minutes of fame has extended a little longer than 15 minutes is somewhat surprising to me and completely baffling to my wife."*

*"We have an obligation and a responsibility to be investing in our students and our schools. We must make sure that people who have the grades, the desire and the will, but not the money, can still get the best education possible."*

*"So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of responsibility, where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves but each other... In this country, we rise or fall as one nation, as one people."*

**Gary McHenry  
Superintendent**

**Mt. Diablo Unified School District  
Web Site: [www.mdusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us)**

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