

CUCPTSA LEGISLATION TEAM SUMMER STRATEGY FOR STATE BUDGET

June 13, 2008

Latest on state budget

- **Governor Schwarzenegger's May Revise** proposes giving schools another \$1.2 billion, which is \$8 million for CUSD. That was enough for Superintendent Carter to recommend to the CUSD Board of Trustees that all permanent teachers be reinstated, which they approved on June 2.
- **Both the Assembly & Senate Democrats have now come out with their education budgets**, which would restore an additional \$2.3 billion and \$3 billion respectively to schools. That would mean about \$15 - \$20 million more respectively for CUSD.
- The next step in the budget process is for the Budget Conference Committee to meet and negotiate differences in the proposals between the two legislative houses, which is happening at the moment.
- Ultimately, the "Big Five," which includes the Governor and Republican and Democratic leaders from both houses, will meet to negotiate a deal that can be brought to the floor in both the Assembly and Senate for a vote. The budget requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass in each house. It then goes to the Governor for his signature.

It's essential to understand that the state budget process is far from over. These latest proposals from the legislative subcommittees are just that – proposals. In many respects, the real negotiations in Sacramento are just now getting underway. **It is vital that PTAs remain strong in raising our voices on behalf of all children over the summer.**

Summer strategy

Every parent, please do the following:

1. Before leaving for vacation, purchase some postcards - a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 7. The postcards can be of your own local city OR of Orange County.
2. Please write one to your Assembly member & one to your Senator (list of who represents each school attached).
3. Then write one to each of the "BIG 5."
4. Message ideas are below.
5. You must include your name & address on the bottom of the postcard and also make sure you say that you are a Capistrano Unified PTA parent.
6. From wherever you are on vacation, please mail the postcards.
7. If you are not going on vacation, please mail them from home.
8. Please mail them anytime BEFORE we have a final budget.

Message ideas

Please feel free to create your own message but here are some ideas to help you if needed (adapted from State PTA information):

- Please make sure we invest properly in our children's future rather than asking what we can afford to cut right now. By adequately investing today, we can ensure that California has a viable economy in the future.
- Please ensure that we have a balanced budget solution that does not jeopardize our children's future or our future workforce.
- Please work together towards a final budget agreement that does not hurt children.
- Our children did not create this budget deficit and their future should not be undermined because of it

You may want to adapt the message for Senate President pro Tem, Don Perata & Speaker Karen Bass as they have both come out with budgets that would give more to education. Maybe more of a "Please continue to fight hard for..."

Legislator addresses (please find the Senator and Assembly member that represent you – listing attached)

Senators:

**Senator Dick Ackerman
State Capitol, Room 3048
Sacramento CA 95814**

**Senator Tom Harman
State Capitol, Room 2052
Sacramento CA 95814**

**Senator Mark Wyland
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento CA 95814**

Assembly members:

**Assemblyman Chuck Devore
State Capitol, Room 4102
Sacramento CA 94249**

**Assemblyman Todd Spitzer
State Capitol, Room 5126
Sacramento CA 95814
Assemblywoman Mimi Walters
State Capitol, Room 6031
Sacramento CA 95814**

Addresses of the Big 5 (please send to all five):

**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento,
CA 95814**

**Senate President pro Tempore, Don Perata
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento,
CA 95814**

**Senate Minority Floor Leader, Dave Cogdill
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento,
CA 95814**

**Speaker Karen Bass
PO Box 942849
Sacramento,
CA 94249**

**Assembly Minority Floor Leader, Mike Villines
State Capitol
Room 3104
Sacramento,
CA 94249**