



OXNARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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A Letter for the Community from Janis Duran, Interim Superintendent BUDGET NEWS FOR 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

This budget year, 2009-2010 and the years immediately following, will be very difficult and challenging budget years for California school districts. The US economic recession characterized by high unemployment, plant closures and a precipitous fall in domestic production has had various degrees of impact on the domestic economy. The state of California is among the worst hit of the fifty states. The dismal performance of California's economy followed by the alarming decline in state revenues has led to drastic reductions in school districts' financial resources. It is important that parents of all students who attend Oxnard School District, members of the community, and stakeholders be given transparent information about the huge budget reductions that we have had to pass on to our instructional programs, including various levels of support services, as a result of the state not being able to provide important financial resources for the education of all children.

Let's recap since the start of the 2008-2009 school-year. The law requires all school districts to present a balanced budget before the beginning of each school year. In order to balance our budget for 2008-2009 as required by law, the District had to cut \$3.2 million from its budget before July 1st, 2008. In December of 2008 the District was again asked to further slash its budget by an additional \$3.0 million. As if this were not enough, as a result of the overwhelming defeat of the ballot measures propositions 1A through 1E in the May 19th election, the governor presented a May revised budget that will deliver another drastic reduction to this school year budget to the tune of \$3.3 million. In total the district has been forced to absorb a whopping \$9.5 million in budget cuts for the 2008-2009 school-year. These developments have delivered a shock to our system with the potential to severely cripple and impede our ability to provide a rich, meaningful and, effective education for the children of Oxnard elementary school district.

The assault on our school budget will continue throughout the new 2009-2010 school year as the state balances its budget on the backs of our children. At the February 2009-2010 adoption of the State Budget (SBX3 4) the Oxnard School District was forced to absorb budget reductions in the amount of \$5.02 million. And, most recently (as of June 1st, 2009) we were told to expect an additional \$1.2 million dollar in budget cuts. The question about 'adequacy' will not be resolved under the current funding model for public education. School districts are being forced to survive on a starving budget which threatens the efficacy of public education for our students.

Given current information, the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will result in a significant infusion of **one-time** additional financial resources of \$3.8 million for our district, resulting in a mitigating impact on the 2009-10 budget reductions. \$1.0 million of this money will be used to meet the state's 3% reserve requirement for 2008-2009 and, \$2.8 million will be used to offset a portion of 2009-2010 steep budget reductions. However, this is not a permanent solution and this one time money will only go toward offsetting some of the previous reduction we had to implement. Any further deterioration in the state budget will have an exacerbating effect on our 2009-2010 budget. The district's relentless struggle to find additional financial resources to continue with our important instructional programs presents a formidable challenge. The students of the Oxnard School District have made significant academic progress in recent times as reflected in the state of California's recently published API scores. The City of Oxnard cannot afford for our children's progress to be postponed or derailed because of a lack of financial resources. We owe it to our 15,500 youngsters.