

9 Million More In Cuts

On Tuesday night at the Board Meeting it was announced that the district would need to cut nine million of ongoing money this year in order to balance its budget in the three year projections.

The Board will start deciding where these additional cuts will come from at next week's June 2nd meeting. As you know the district has already made major cuts over the last two years. It's hard to imagine what we can cut and maintain a quality educational program in Mt. Diablo. We had hoped Measure D would have passed to help cushion this latest hit. Tied to the failure of the State Props to pass and the announced 24 billion dollar hole the State needs to fill, the chances are high that K-12 education will be asked to cut even more beyond the 9 million.

What can we do? As I've stated many times, if we aren't political, the politicians will be the ones deciding what happens in our classrooms. The State Legislators will be meeting again to consider the Governor's proposals and come up with a way to balance a budget. What we are hearing is that they will be only considering an "all cuts" approach. They feel that the Special Election results were a mandate from the voters that they would accept no tax increases. I sent out an email yesterday that countered this argument. We need everyone to get involved now. We need you to contact your local State legislators and tell them an "all cuts" approach is unacceptable. Give them the support to not fold in the upcoming negotiations and to stand up for the valuable services Californias need. We need letters to the editor on the theme that Californians need to make investing in our children a priority. If the Governor is successful in what he is proposing, the damage to our students will be felt for a generations. If the Governor is successful, we will be feeling the consequences in Mt. Diablo as soon as August when we come back for the new year. Please read the paper and listen to the news on our budget crisis, stay informed. Get political and fight for our students and our employees that make a difference in their lives.

Locally, we need you to help inform our parents and community of what is happening. The Board needs to hear from them on what the priorities should be. Is class size reduction important? What programs are important to maintain? These decisions will be made at the next Board meeting on June 2nd.

QEIA Survey

If you teach at one of our QEIA schools, you should have received a survey from CTA to complete. Please take the time to complete the survey, the deadline has been extended. The information you provide will help guide CTA's efforts to make QEIA a success for our students and members.