



ADMINISTRATION

March 4, 2010

Dear Parents and Community:

Earlier this month, Governor Schwarzenegger released his proposed California budget for 2010-11. The State continues to face significant budgetary challenges that are caused by the economic recession and has proposed the following cuts:

1. To continue State funding for Public Education at a deficit of 18.355%
2. To fund a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of -0.38%
3. To have a permanent reduction to education of \$191 per student

When you combine last year's deficit (\$1.6 million) with the additional cuts proposed for next year (\$1.4 million), the total amount that we must cut from the District budget in 2010-11 is \$3 million. Given the current condition of the State economy, there is a good chance that additional cuts will take place next year.

Over the next several months, the Legislature will argue about what to cut, what flexibility to give, and which taxes to increase. We are currently negotiating with District employee unions to attempt to solve the \$3 million deficit at the bargaining table. Our proposal to the teachers included:

- Decrease salary up to 3%;
- Decrease the employee work year by six days. This may include fewer instructional days for students;
- Not increase District's contribution to employee health benefits;
- Increase class size in kindergarten through third grade;
- Adopt a National School District school calendar that is aligned with the calendar of Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD) for beginning and ending dates and major breaks. This would provide a common calendar for all students and their families in National City.

We will be asking similar cuts for all employee groups including, classified, supervisory and administration. Our goal will be to use combinations of these options to get to the \$3 million target. None of this will be pleasant, but there are not many other options that can get us to the targeted amount. The severity of the State budget crisis leaves us with very few alternatives. The District's calendar proposal, if adopted, would mean that the elementary school year would be identical to the school year at National City Middle School, Granger Junior High School and Sweetwater High School.

NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1500 'N' Avenue • National City, CA 91950 • (619) 336-7500 • Fax (619) 336-7505 • <http://nsd.us>

Creating Successful Learners... Now

I recognize and regret the impact this has on staff and students. We are fortunate to have great employees who care about children and will do anything it takes to maintain the high standard that we have set in the National School District. Our commitment to excellence will never waiver even when we are seriously under-funded by the State.

These are stressful times for everyone and uncertainty and rumors only make the situation more difficult. As a way to share up-to-date information about the State budget and to answer questions from parents and community members, we have organized the following two Community Budget Forums:

Date: March 11, 2010
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Location: National City Public Library
1401 National City Blvd.
National City, CA 91950

Date: March 11, 2010
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Rancho de la Nación School
Auditorium
1830 E. Division Street
National City, CA 91950

Sincerely,



Christopher Oram, Ed.D.
District Superintendent