

CUCPTSA Legislative Briefs – March 2010

LOCAL

CUSD Budget: Currently the CUSD budget deficit for the 2010/2011 school year is estimated at approx \$34 million. The next interim report will be submitted to OCDE in March and will again be a qualified budget as the CUSD Board continues to attempt to identify the needed cuts from the 2010/2011 budget.

Negotiations (PTA REMAINS NEUTRAL AT ALL TIMES): CUEA (Teachers) - Fact Finding failed to reach an agreement on January 26. A written report is normally issued within 30 days. Once the report is issued, the District has 10 days in which to make the report public.

Ballot Measure Changing the Way CUSD Trustees are Elected: On January 15, the parent group that submitted the petition seeking to change the way trustees are elected, asked that the initiative be placed on the November ballot rather than the June ballot. On February 10, the OC Committee on School District Organization held a special meeting/public hearing and voted 10-0 to reset the election date to November 2, 2010.

Superintendent Search Process: The CUSD Board of Trustees is working with a consultant firm to search for a permanent superintendent. By late April, the final 3 candidates will be selected, and by early May a decision will be made.

Board Resolution for Delegation of Authority: At the CUSD Board meeting on March 1, a resolution was brought before the trustees with the purpose of preparing for the possibility of a strike and ensuring a safe environment for students if a strike is called.

STATE

Senate Budget Package: On February 19, 2010, the California State Senate passed a package of 27 bills that contained \$15 billion in spending cuts, \$12.8 billion in temporary tax increases, \$11.4 billion in borrowing, and leaves a \$1 billion reserve. The Senate plan also makes some adjustments to Proposition 98 and K-14 funding but funding will still be reduced in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

LAO Report: The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) produced a report entitled, "The 2010-11 Budget: Proposition 98 and K-12 Education" which reviews the governor's budget proposal. They made two alternative suggestions regarding Prop. 98. One approach would be to suspend Proposition 98 to whatever level the state decided. Another approach would be to develop additional solutions in the rest of the budget in order to meet the higher current-law Proposition 98 requirement. This would require raising additional revenues.

Governance Reform: On February 12, Repair California, leaders of an effort to stage a constitutional convention, announced that faced with a steep cash shortage and a ticking clock to qualify for the November ballot, they have "called it quits."

New California Secretary of Education: On February 23, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of Bonnie Reiss as Secretary of Education.

Update on the Lt. Gov Appointment: In February 2010, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger re-nominated Republican state Senator Abel Maldonado to replace Democrat John Garamendi who was elected to Congress.

New Speaker, John Perez, Sworn In: On March 1, John Perez was sworn in as the new speaker of the California Assembly.

FEDERAL

Race to the Top: The U.S. Department of Education has announced the state finalists for the first round of RTTT: Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Tennessee. California was not chosen in the first round.

Federal Budget Update: The House held its first education budget hearing at the end of February to review the administration's proposal for 2011. Members of the committee questioned Secretary Arne Duncan about the decision to freeze funding for special education at the current level of expenditures, which is approximately 17% of the cost of educating students under IDEA. In another proposal, the budget would consolidate the Javits Gifted and Talented Education Act with several other programs, and some are concerned that this would jeopardize funding for gifted education.