

Dear Board of Education and District Staff,

At the December general DAC meeting, a subcommittee to address the Title I central budget and the projected shortfall was formed. This committee was charged by the general DAC body to review and make a recommendation to the DAC at the January meeting regarding the district proposed Title I central budget that contains an almost \$6.7 million shortfall due to cuts in Title I funding at the federal level. The subcommittee met on Wednesday, January 8th and formulated its recommendation. We will be presenting this recommendation for discussion and a vote at the January 15th general DAC meeting.

The subcommittee will recommend to the general DAC body that the district budget the legal minimum for most mandated costs and to, in the very least, maintain the current site funding level at \$15.4 million. If more Title I money becomes available we will recommend that it, too, be allocated to school sites.

The maximization of allocated money to school sites has always been a point of unity within the DAC. The reasons for this viewpoint are several. Money at the site level is needed to be sure there is stability at the site. Stability means maintaining programs that are currently serving the needs of students. The continuity of programs and staffing creates a school environment that nurtures the site's personal relationships with students, parents, and the community. The maintenance of programs at sites also helps retain their student population. Also, money that is allocated to sites allows them to spend funds to fulfill their individual needs at their site in a direct way to support students. Everyone at the site—teachers, parents, and staff—can see that the students are directly benefitting from the use of funds and that funds can be redirected easily if need be.

In order to fulfill the minimum required federal set asides and to maintain the \$15.4 million allocation for sites, the subcommittee will recommend the following to the DAC:

- Remove from Title I spending \$2.65 million in Professional Development. We are mandated to use only 10 % of Title I money for Professional Development. The original budget contains an extra \$2.65 million that does not need to be supported by Title I.
- Remove \$2.7 million by eliminating from the Title I central budget class size reduction for 29 schools. There is no data that shows reducing class size from 27:1 to 24:1 increases student achievement. Also, sites could on an individual basis choose to purchase additional teachers with site money to lower class size. Finally, LCFF requires that progress be made towards smaller class sizes. The state formula provides funds to help districts with this. This money, not Title I funds, should be used to decrease class sizes if the district deems this item important for the academic success of students.
- Redirect the \$1.3 million Title I carryover from the 2012-2013 school year that was to be distributed to school sites during the 2013-2014 school year to the 2014-2015 school year budgets. The DAC already voted at the December meeting to distribute the carryover to school sites. We just need their recommendation to use it in the 2014-2015 school year instead of the 2013-2014 school year. This item will go before the DAC on Wednesday, January 15th.

These changes to the central budget make up the almost \$6.7 million shortfall. The presentation and the vote on the subcommittee's recommendation will take place at the general DAC meeting on January 15th. The vote will be reported immediately to the district and presented to you at the final Title I budget vote on January 21st.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Amy Redding

Chair of the District Advisory Council for Compensatory Education