

SEA WAVES

Will the Trigger Be Pulled for Mid-Year Budget Reductions?

Probably so. The only remaining issue is how much money will be cut to our district in February. On November 16th, the LAO (Legislative Analysts Office) projected that state revenues will fall short by \$3.7 billion. Assembly Bill 114 tells us that funding to K-12 schools will be cut if the shortfall is \$2 billion or more.

However, the LAO report is just one step in the process. The final decision on the trigger cuts will not be known until December 15th, when the California Department of Finance announces their projections for state revenue shortfalls. The Director of Finance has stated that some level of cuts will likely occur, but the exact amount is not known yet. There are several factors that come into play when predicting reductions to K-12 schools, including the Prop 98 funding guarantee. We won't speculate the amount of the funding cut yet, but we do know that the district has set in reserve \$5.5 million to cover a "worse case scenario" mid-year budget reduction. Also, at the school board direction, there has been \$1 million also set in reserve for the possible return of 2 furlough days. We will keep you posted!

SEA Survey:

Since our request for personal email addresses in the last SEA Waves, we received about 50 new or corrected personal email addresses. If you have not yet submitted a personal email address for the next SEA survey, please email it to seducators@aol.com prior to winter break. Using these personal emails, the survey will be disseminated in early January and will be sent to those bargaining unit members. There will be specific questions designed for elementary and secondary teachers, as well as general questions for everyone.

As we visit school sites, we also hear of issues that are specific to members who are not regular education classroom teachers. Therefore, along with this newsletter, there is a separate request form for personal email addresses specific to nurses, speech therapists and special education teachers. We need these email addresses returned to SEA prior to winter break. Thank you in advance for your help.

Attention Secondary Teachers:

Reminder—progress reports are due by midnight on Monday, December 12th. This is one day earlier than originally scheduled. A email notice was sent out on Wednesday, November 30th, by the Information Technology Department.

Emeritus Retirement Program:

If you are considering retiring mid-year (and remain teaching in your classroom until June), you must notify the district no later than Friday, January 13, 2012. The effective retirement date is January 28, 2012. If you have a question about qualifications for the program, please email (seducators@aol.com) or call the SEA office at 526-5668.