



HESPERIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board of Trustees

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Bruce Minton
Ella "Lee" Rogers
Helen Rogers

Elementary Schools

Carmel 947-3188
Cottonwood 949-1390
Cypress Academy 949-2596
Eucalyptus 949-0815
Hollyvale 947-3484
Joshua Circle 244-6133
Juniper 244-6161
Kingston 244-8869
Lime Street 244-0512
Maple 244-3096
Mesa Academy 244-6306
Mesa Grande 244-3709
Mesquite Trails 949-3149
Mission Crest 949-8265
Oxford Academy 949-8364
Topaz 244-4622

Secondary Schools

Canyon Ridge 244-6530
Cedar Middle 244-6093
Hesperia Jr. High 244-9386
Ranchero Middle 948-0175
AEC, ROP 244-1771
Desert Trails 948-8169
Canyon Ridge High 244-6530
Hesperia High 244-9898
Mojave High 948-3999
Sultana High 947-6777

October 2008

Dear HUSD Family:

It is amazing that one quarter of the school year has already come and gone. The holiday season will be here before we know it.

As you are all aware, after a record-setting seventy-eight (78) days past the deadline, the State budget was finally passed. Unfortunately, it does not contain any long-term budget resolutions for the State's financial dilemma, and the components of this budget provide essentially flat funding for schools. In addition, it does not address the unfunded 5.66% statutory Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), which schools need. Instead, it provides for only a .68% COLA. Because the State's long-term budget problems remain unsolved, these issues will carry over into 2009 and 2010, and more than likely, even into 2010-2011.

To make matters even worse, the budget act approved by this legislation gives the Governor the ability to make mid-year cuts (subject to voter approval) without approval from the Legislature. What this means for HUSD is that we must continue to conserve funds, monitor expenditures, and maximize our financial resources.

At this point in time, our expenses for the year will exceed our revenues by \$5.2 million. This means that we are having to break into our reserve monies to meet our normal financial obligations. This would be comparable in your personal lives to paying routine monthly bills out of savings, rather than your checking account. In addition, since the law mandates that we maintain a 3% reserve, our reliance on these funds to pay our expenses is extremely limited.

Next year, we will receive approximately \$300 less ADA per student. This will mean \$5.8 million fewer dollars in revenue. To put it more concisely, the money coming in has, and will continue to, decrease and the money going out has increased.

Our financial options may look bleak, but rest assured, we are committed to weathering this fiscal storm together. Any savings we can realize this school year will help reduce the cuts that will have to be made next year. I have staff already working on the resulting issues and will be developing a plan on how to include all stakeholders in this process.

My commitment is that through this entire budget process, we will follow three (3) guiding principles.

- 1) Maintain our quality core (academic) programs to foster high student achievement;
- 2) Minimize impact on staff; and
- 3) The decision making process will be transparent, informative and inclusive.

Thank you for your support. It is my honor to be your Superintendent.

Sincerely,

Mark A. McKinney
Superintendent