

UPC Snapshot

United Parent Council Monthly Meeting, in review

March 2010



Dr. Lee began by reminding the group about the election on May 18th to decide whether or not to institute a temporary 1% sales tax to benefit public education (2/3 of the proceeds) which would automatically repeal in May 2013. Because of the uncertainty of the bill's passage, the district has had to prepare two budgets for next year.

If the bill passes, the district is looking at an approximate \$7.1 million cut. This is better than it sounds because 1) the district has saved money to prepare for this, and 2) the override passed. Because of the override, the district will be able to add 57 more teachers and restore salaries in this scenario.

If the bill does not pass, the district is looking at an additional \$12.8 million cut.

The Cabinet generated a list of possible cuts and met with presidents of all stakeholder groups to get feedback. Adjustments were made at a board executive session and were presented again to the stakeholder groups. A board study session was then held, and meetings were again held with all stakeholder leadership. The goal in making cuts was to make them as far away as possible from day to day classroom instruction. Some of the proposed cuts if the bill does not pass include:

- Cutting Reading Specialist positions (17)
- Not hiring the 57 teachers proposed if the bill passes
- No restoration of teacher salaries, mandatory furloughs
- Removing Band and Strings from K-6
- Cutting funding in half for all athletics and extracurricular activities
- Variety of cuts in staff throughout the district including 7 administrators

UPC Business Meeting Highlights.....

- Sharon Bucek, Homeless Liaison for PVUSD, spoke before the meeting to give a brief overview of this district program which offers resources and help for families in need. More information is available on the district website under Title 1 programs. She emphasized to the group that schools need to let her know what families need help; many resources are available through her office. Her number is 602-525-0233, and her email address is sbucek@pvschools.net
- Laurie Smith from CLN spoke about the upcoming Proposition 100 election. CLN will be covering/updating lots of upcoming bills this year. Laurie encouraged the reps to sign up for the updates if they haven't already and to contact her if they need more information.
- Nominees for next year's UPC Executive Board were announced: Tami Taylor – Pres., Pam Hoffberg – 1st V.P., Stacey Huscher- 2nd V.P., Alexis Strizich- Secretary, Sandy Ditsch – Treasurer.
- The By-Laws have been revised and were distributed for review (changes were highlighted). They will be voted on in April.
- Media Fest is March 23rd at Shadow Mountain High School. Viewing of videos begins at 5:30 and the program begins at 6:30.
- The Foundation's Changemaker event is scheduled to be held during the week of 5/3. A UPC rep is needed to sit on the Changemaker Committee. Meetings will be on Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30. Contact Julie Bacon if interested.
- Julie Bacon reminded all UPC reps that our job is to make sure we give out **CORRECT** information regarding the budget. If you don't know the answer to something, tell them you'll check and get back to them.

Program: Dissecting the Demographic by Rick Brammer of Applied Economics

Rick Brammer of Applied Economics was hired by PVUSD to do a demographic study of the district for future planning. He gave an overview of the project which contains an updated database of existing conditions and an analysis of demographic trends influencing how many students are within our boundaries. The study looked at the district from a “wide angle” district-wide perspective as well as from a neighborhood level. Some of the information he shared from the study:

- Although total enrollment in the district has remained +/- 35,000 for many years, a closer look at the numbers shows growth in the northern part of the district and shrinking numbers in the south.
- More high school students are enrolled in the district than lower grades because of older neighborhoods
- There are 51 alternative school options within district boundaries (charter, private, parochial)
- 7,800 school age kids in district didn't enroll in PVUSD (about 20%)

A copy of the study will be available on the UPC website in the near future.

For details on upcoming meetings, programs, and all things UPC, go to www.pvupc.org