



Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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March 23, 2009

Dear Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Community Members:

As we all know, the Manhattan Beach Unified School District is one of the finest school districts in California, and, like so many school districts throughout the state, our district now faces dramatic cuts in statewide funding that will result in an unprecedented \$5 million shortfall (10% of the district's \$52 million budget) for the 2009-2010 school year. This loss of revenue comes from the impact of the state's recently adopted 17-month budget which sent public education in California into a tailspin. Already faced with mid-year cuts of almost \$1.7 million, our district has now moved forward toward finalizing a balanced 2009-2010 budget by the statutory deadline of June 30, 2009.

As part of the Board of Trustees' legal mandate to adopt a balanced 2009-2010 budget, and in compliance with the Education Code to notify certificated staff by March 15th of the possibility that their contracts may not be renewed for the following school year, the Board adopted two resolutions. These two resolutions, adopted on March 4th and March 11th, reduced approximately 52 full-time equivalents (FTE) in certificated (teacher) staff positions. The Board resolutions included the elimination of the following certificated positions beginning with the 2009-2010 school year:

- District administrator through a district reorganization plan (salary reduction equivalent to 1 FTE)
- High School Athletic Director (.6 FTE)
- Elementary Support Specialists (3.3 FTE)
- Secondary-High School Foreign Language Teacher (.2 FTE)
- Secondary-High School Social Science Teacher (1 FTE)
- Secondary-High School English Teachers (3 FTE)
- Secondary-High School/Middle School English Learner Teacher(.37 FTE)
- Secondary-High School Math Teachers (1.8 FTE)
- Secondary-High School Art Teacher (.6 FTE)
- Secondary-Middle School Counselor- (1 FTE)
- Secondary-High School Educational Advisor- (1 FTE)

- Secondary-High School/Middle School At-Risk Counselor- (1.6 FTE)
- Secondary-High School Librarian (1 FTE)
- Secondary-High School/Middle School District Substitute (1 FTE)
- Secondary-High School AVID Program (.8 FTE)
- Secondary-High School Intervention Advisor (.4 FTE)
- Elementary K-5 Teachers (20 FTE)
- Elementary EL Teacher (1 FTE)
- Elementary Reading Specialists (2.5 FTE)
- Elementary Science Specialists (2.8 FTE)
- Elementary Physical Education Specialists (5 FTE)
- District Special Education Program Specialist (.6 FTE)
- District Special Education Resource Teacher (1 FTE)
- District Nurse (1 FTE)
- District GATE Specialist (.6 FTE)

Although the list above represents 15% of the district's certificated employees, these reductions do not take us to the \$5 million projected deficit. Therefore, elimination of certain classified positions was also necessary to balance the 2009-2010 budget. Classified employees must be provided with a 45-day notice if their positions are affected. The following list represents approximately 30 full-time equivalents (FTE) or 13% of the district-wide classified staff who have been reduced or eliminated:

- Secondary-High School Special Education Instructional Assistants (3 FTE)
- Secondary-High School/Middle School EL Instructional Assistant (.8 FTE)
- Secondary-High School Computer Lab Specialist (.8 FTE)
- Secondary-Middle School Office Specialist (1 FTE)
- Secondary-Middle School Physical Education Assistant (.8 FTE)
- Secondary-Middle School Library Media Specialist (1 FTE)
- Secondary-Middle School Custodian (1 FTE)
- Elementary 4th/5th Grade Instructional Assistants (6.4 FTE)
- Elementary EL Instructional Assistant (.8 FTE)
- Elementary Speech Language Pathology Assistant (.75 FTE)
- Elementary Health Assistant (.6 FTE)

- Elementary Library Media Specialists (3.5 FTE)
- Elementary Computer Lab Specialists (4 FTE)
- District Systems Technicians (2 FTE)
- District Technology Resource Assistant (1 FTE)
- District Office Staff Positions (2 FTE)
- District Storekeeper (1 FTE)

If there are no new revenue sources forthcoming to the district, the educational program plan for 2009-2010 will assume the elimination of the positions outlined above. Although the projected 2009-2010 budget was developed using a thorough and conservative approach, additional reductions in programs and services may be required. The district will continue to monitor the manner in which the governor and legislature respond to upcoming economic shifts in the state's future revenues and expenditures as well as the result of the May 19th elections.

While we face unprecedented fiscal challenges caused by the recession, our community is remarkable in its willingness to come together and work toward solutions in times of crisis. The Manhattan Beach Education Foundation's commitment to provide our school district with \$2.8 million in grants in support of core education programs for 2009-10, prevented an even larger deficit and will help maintain approximately 37 full-time equivalents K-12. At the request of generous and dedicated parents from all seven school sites, the Foundation is also preparing an additional spring fundraising campaign to help further address this budget challenge. Because of the dedication, generosity, and commitment of our parents, our district is in a stronger position than many other school districts throughout the state to weather these uncertain times. We are so very grateful for this support.

The district will post current information about the 2009-2010 budget on its website at www.mbusd.org under the heading "Budget Watch."

Sincerely,

Beverly J. Rohrer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools