

## **Meaningful Information Kindling Enlightenment's Message #4 – Our Energy Conservation Program is Working!**

One of the board's goals this year is to work to develop the best budget possible in the midst of our state's crisis, and one way they are doing that is by taking steps to reduce energy costs. Our school board took proactive steps by adopting a policy on energy conservation and entering in a partnership with Energy Education. For 24 years Energy Education has helped school districts reduce energy consumption, allowing funds to stay where they belong - in the classrooms. The firm received the United States Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year in 2009 and 2010.

Most of you have been introduced in your staff meetings to Stacia Costa, our Energy Education Specialist. She began her work in this position in September of 2010. Her job is to implement the energy program daily. She receives mechanical and technical training from Energy Education, and is actively working in our buildings late at night, early in the morning, and on holidays ensuring that we are properly managing our energy equipment. She's doing a great job, and is working closely with many of us to implement strategies that can save energy.

This program should not impact your comfort or the comfort of our students. It's about using energy wisely and not using energy when our rooms or buildings are empty. We are using our energy consumption data to figure out where we can save the most. As we learn more about our usage, each of us will be urged to change some habits on how we use energy in each classroom, office, building and school. I appreciate your cooperation on this, and in the end, I know that we will be proud of our efforts and our results.

We spend over \$1 million a year in energy costs here in MBUSD. It's easy to do the math and see what a 10% to 25% energy reduction would save. We have analyzed our electric and gas bills from July through December. While the first four months showed little or no change compared to last year, the November electric bills showed our district reducing electricity use by **14%**, and our December usage by **19%!** Congratulations to all of us! We are headed in the right direction.

So thank you for your efforts so far, and I look forward to learning more about how we can change our habits and practices so that we can be a model district in terms of energy usage, and so that we can maximize the use of our financial resources.

Thanks for all that you do,

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