

Did You Know?

Chapter 3

Thank you to those who were able to attend the Budget Forum on February 16 at Sonoran Trails Middle School. We will have our next Budget Forum on March 1st at Cactus Shadows High School from 6:00-7:30 in the lecture hall.

We will continue to check to see if additional questions are submitted through the Google Doc that is on the District web page and respond in future Did You Know? communiques.

Here are the *questions* and factual responses to the submissions from the budget forum:

- *Are you going to put these slides online for parents/voters to review?*
The slides will be on the front page of the District webpage and the Did You Know? questions and answers will also be on the District webpage.
- *Can the district have half days, once a week for preparation if specials are reduced? We are not able to have elementary preparation before or after school due to daily duties before and after school.*
Dr. Burdick agreed to look into this.
- *If we end up reducing art, music and pe, what happens to teacher preparation time?*
Specials will be offered at all elementary sites and a schedule will be created by the elementary principals for equity.
- *Is a 4-day school week an option?*
This is not an option. It is a hardship for our families and it could cause parents to travel to surrounding districts for a traditional school week and we would lose enrollment.
- *If the proposition passes, most districts will most likely use the money to increase their teacher salaries. We already teach 30 minutes more than P.V. Will we be reducing the time for each school day? We are not only paying teachers less than neighboring districts-we are expecting them to teach longer.*
Reducing instructional time is not an option. Minutes of instruction are mandated by the state.
- *What are we writing legislators for? This seemed to concern budget. What exactly just passed?*
We asked that you write our legislators to show support for a bill authored by Representative Carter that would allow state tax money to remain in our district that currently goes to the General Fund. CCUSD does not receive any

General Fund dollars. The bill passed through the Ways and Means Committee and is awaiting Appropriations Committee.

- *If the Heather Carter bill passes, when would that money become available?*
We would be notified at the end of the state budget process when the money will be allocated.
- *If House Bill 2686 passes, how will that have an effect on possible reductions?*
We would come back to the budget sheets and apply the additional funds to areas that were being considered for reduction.
- *Had the override passed, what position would the district be in as far as the budget and teacher salaries?*
If the recent Maintenance and Override election had passed, we would not be looking at the severity of cuts you see that are on the proposed \$3 million worksheet.
- *How do you reduce 2 middle school teachers without increasing class size given the huge incoming 7th grade class?*
STMS was allocated additional teachers for next year. Originally their cut was to be 5 teachers. The middle school principal would be looking at the schedule for the least impact.
- *Why can't the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction be merged? I assume that would be a significant cost savings perhaps allowing less encore teachers to be cut. Why can't more positions at the DO be consolidated? It appears that you're still cutting about \$1 million from classroom. There seem to be a lot of "Directors" at the District level.*
There are federal government and grant requirements that require the oversight that is provided by the current directors. As you may recall we have had significant cuts to the District office in years past, up to 24%.
- *Who will be responsible for teaching the art, music and pe standards if under the \$3 million plan it is not offered daily? Will teachers have a prep?*
The standards will continue to be taught by the specials teachers in the capacity they serve. Great teaching and learning in all content areas will continue. Teachers will have prep time and the principals will construct schedules so there is equity.
- *If computer techs are gone at elementary, who will be able to quickly correct and troubleshoot problems, so that learning is not interrupted? Tech is always failing or needing updating, etc. during the day. If specialized para-professionals are cut will IEP's still be in compliance? Who will be responsible for taking students who are disruptive etc, out of the general classroom?*

We would need to capitalize on the investment we have made in our teachers to continue to support one another and utilize our District tech department for tech support. We also can capitalize on students who are proficient in tech support who are able to help. Our IEP's will always be in compliance.

- *It is apparent a great deal of thought went into the proposed cuts. Thank you, teachers, staff and CCUSD employees for preserving the integrity of our classrooms. This is not an easy process, but your focus has made a possible bad situation better.*