



# The Superintendent's Update

November 7, 2008

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## NEWS FROM KELLY

**CUSD Board Elections:** Congratulations to incumbent and current CUSD Board President Jann Reed and newcomer Liz Griffin! Jann has been reelected to the CUSD Board of Education for a second term while Liz Griffin will begin her first term on the Board. I look forward to sharing with Liz, Jann, and the rest of our board the many positive things we have happening at all of our schools. Speaking of which, please be sure to let me know when you have a special event happening at your school so that Board members and district staff can attend and support the school as often possible.

**Code Red Situations:** It has been a busy week in regards to practicing all we have learned about Safe Schools and responding to potential emergency situations. I am very proud to say that in the two situations that occurred this week, staff and students responded exactly the way we have been trained—safely, efficiently, and with positive end results.

On Tuesday, November 4, an unidentified object was found in the library at Chico High School. Chico Police Department was contacted, arrived on campus, and assumed Incident Command. As a precaution, the campus was evacuated shortly prior to the end of the school day. By 5pm, the situation was safely resolved and the suspicious package was found to contain a book. CHS students and staff did an outstanding job in following Code Red procedures, and as a result were able to evacuate the campus in a safe and orderly manner.

On Thursday, November 6, a suspicious package was noticed in the vicinity of Hooker Oak School; the package was not on the school campus. Chico Police Department was called by non-school personnel. The police closed Arbutus Avenue between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Chico PD requested that Hooker Oak release students from school at their normal end time but that students exit the school via the north side of the campus, away from Arbutus Avenue. Hooker Oak staff did an outstanding job of helping students exit the school in a calm, safe and positive manner. By 4:00 pm, this situation was also safely resolved and suspicious package was removed by Chico PD. It appeared to contain tools.

As with all Code Red situations, staff from CUSD and Chico Police Department will debrief and determine what went well and what could be improved in case of future such situations.

Thank you to both the Chico Police Department and the staffs at CHS and Hooker Oak for their prompt attention to and assistance with both of these situations. Thank you also to the Chico community for their patience as we worked to safely resolve these situations.

## **NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**CUSD School Calendar Development:** CUSD is in the process of gathering input from students, staff, parents and community members for a new academic calendar for 2009 – 2012. More information regarding the calendar is available on our [website](#). We invite your opinion and comments, which can be emailed to [schoolcalendar@chicousd.org](mailto:schoolcalendar@chicousd.org). Some of the parameters around the school calendar are:

- Students must be in school 180 days
- CUSD must maximize student attendance, for both academic and monetary reasons.
- Approximately 10,000 CUSD students take the state mandated STAR tests each spring, which occur after about 85% of the school year is completed.
- For academic reasons, secondary teachers, as well as some students, have expressed a strong preference for having the first semester of the school year end prior to the beginning of Winter Break.

Responses will be gathered until mid-December. Staff will then present a couple of options to our school board in January 2009.

**CUSD and CSUC Professional Development School:** The Two-Way Immersion (TWI) Program teachers from both Rosedale and Parkview schools met with CSUC professors Esther Larocco, Claudia Peralta Nash and Maria Sudduth on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the possibility of CUSD and CSUC developing a TWI Professional Development Program. The focus of this partnership is to improve student learning in the TWI program through the sharing of expertise and resources between the CUSD and CSUC teaching staff members. A group of TWI parents, teachers and administrators from Parkview, Rosedale and Chico Junior High School met with CSUC professors and CUSD administrators on Thursday to continue the dialogue and to begin the planning process for this professional development school program. The first step in this process is an inquiry of the strengths and concerns of the CUSD Two-Way Immersion program. The inquiry process and resulting research will be conducted by the CSUC professors and will be used by the CUSD and CSUC staff to develop our next steps in improving student learning.

### **Alternative Education:**

Students on 5 day suspension attending Academy For Change (AFC): 3

Pending expulsion hearings:

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade=2; 8<sup>th</sup> grade=2; 9<sup>th</sup> grade=2; 10<sup>th</sup> grade=5; 11<sup>th</sup> grade=4; 12<sup>th</sup> grade=2.

Current students on expulsion:

- Boys: Elem=0; 7<sup>th</sup> grade=3; 8<sup>th</sup> grade=5; 9<sup>th</sup> grade=11; 10<sup>th</sup> grade=19; 11<sup>th</sup> grade=19; 12<sup>th</sup> grade=6.
- Girls: Elem=0; 7<sup>th</sup> grade=0; 8<sup>th</sup> grade=3; 9<sup>th</sup> grade=7; 10<sup>th</sup> grade=4; 11<sup>th</sup> grade=6; 12<sup>th</sup> grade=1.

Twenty one individuals were tested 11/1/08 for the GED. The next test is 12/6/08 and 16 seats are already filled.

The current enrollment for alternative education is 296.

## **NEWS FROM BUSINESS SERVICES**

The Governor has called the state back into legislative session and announced his proposals to solve the current crisis. The proposal is massive and includes mid year cuts that set us back by somewhere between 3-4%. It is too early to know if the Governor's proposals will materialize so now is the time for us to wait-and-see. Regardless, please take a moment to read the details in the article below. We will provide regular budget updates as this issue unfolds.

### *Governor Drops Budget Bomb*

*November 6, 2008*

*By Dennis Meyers, CASBO Assistant Executive Director, Advocacy & Policy*

*In announcing a special session of the Legislature to address the state's out of control budget crisis, the governor moments ago said that the current estimate of the budget shortfall is \$11.2 billion. His plan to cover the shortfall would include \$4.7 billion in new revenue and \$4.5 billion in cuts, including \$2.5 billion in Proposition 98 reductions.*

#### **Revenue**

*The governor called for an immediate increase in the sales tax of 1.5 cents. The increase would be a temporary increase, lasting only three years. The increase would raise \$3.5 billion in the current year. He also proposed an oil severance tax worth \$530 million, expanding the sales tax worth \$357 million, and increasing the alcohol tax by a nickel a drink which would raise an estimated \$293 million.*

*Proposition 98 cuts: The governor proposed Proposition 98 cuts of \$2.5 billion as follows:*

- *Eliminating the K-12 revenue limit COLA for a savings of \$244.3 million.*
- *Reduce K-12 revenue limits by another \$1.791 billion, which is worth about \$300 per ADA.*
- *Reduce \$55 million from current year unallocated capped child care programs.*
- *\$42 million from reduced workload expectations in Stage 2 and Stage 3 child care programs. Stage 2 reductions would total \$27 million and Stage 3 reductions would total \$15 million.*
- *\$108 million in prior year savings from CalWORKS Stage 2 and Stage 3 would be reallocated in the current year for a savings to the general fund.*
- *Reductions in specific programs totaling \$71.2 million from prior year and other savings, including \$28.6 million from K-3 CSR, \$2.6 million in principal training, and \$3.3 million from alternative credentialing. The savings from these programs would be used to backfill a current year reduction of \$71.2 million in Targeted Instructional Improvement Grants (TIIG).*
- *\$39.8 million by eliminating the community college COLA.*
- *\$292.4 million from community college general purpose apportionments.*

#### **Flexibility**

*To help implement the proposed reductions, the governor also called for allowing school districts and community colleges to transfer any categorical allocations they receive to their general funds for any purpose up to the amount of the cuts they've received. If districts utilize this flexibility, then the governing board will be required to adopt a transfer plan which specifies the amounts transferred and how the money was used.*

*The governor called upon the Legislature to act immediately and not delay. He stressed that calling the lame duck Legislature back with a hard deadline of November 30 will cause legislators to focus.*

Again, at this point, **this is just a proposal** from the Governor. However, we want everyone to be aware just how serious this state budget situation has become and the severe implications it could have for K-12 education. We will keep you posted on further developments and give you more analysis as more information becomes available.

**Finance:** The work on the November payroll has begun. The processing schedule is accelerated due to the holidays, which always proves to be challenging for the payroll team. The actual pay date will be Tuesday, 11/25/08, and the paychecks can be picked up at the D.O. until 3:00 p.m., at which time the checks are put into the US Mail for delivery.

**403B News:** The District successfully transferred its first data file containing employee's 403b data to our third party administrator, The TDS Group. TDS in turn transferred CUSD employee's funds electronically on October's Payday to recipient 403b vendors who accept electronic transfers and checks were mailed to those who do not allow electronic transfers.

**Categorical Programs:** The categorical program budgets are continuously being updated with new data in anticipation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Interim and 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim budget reporting periods. The After School programs, SBCP, and Title I are just a few of the categorical accounts being analyzed.

**Safety:** CUSD fire inspections are continuing with the City of Chico Fire Inspector Rick Doane. Inspector Doane commented on the progress that has taken place over the past 5 years, which is encouraging. Many of the violations that Inspector Doane has noted are simple to correct. Some of them include:

*Storage:* Overhead storage must be 2 feet below the ceiling. This prevents the spread of fire into the attic space and assists the fire department in fighting fire. In addition, overhead storage must be secured to prevent falling on students and Staff, but also to avoid exits from being blocked.

*Spacing of materials:* When artwork or materials that are less than 9 square feet in size are displayed, spacing must be provided. This is to prevent a fire from spreading from project to project. Many of us saw how this practice helped to save some homes during this past summer's major fire. Anything over 9 square feet must be either flame retardant material or treated with Inspecta-shield® or similar product.

*Holiday Decorations:* All flammable decorations must be treated or made of flame resistant materials. This would apply to Christmas trees, Fall displays, etc.

*Electrical:* Though Daisy-chaining still occurred, it was by far less than in previous years. All electrical equipment must be plugged into a permanent outlet or into an approved power strip that is plugged directly into the wall. Even when power strips are used, distance should be provided between the materials that are stored and electrical connections. A classroom at PVHS was saved because when a power strip malfunctioned, there was nothing to burn next to it. Keep things that burn away from things that get hot!

**Nutrition Services:** The Quality Circle met on this week to discuss increased participation, retirements and menu changes. It was a positive meeting and the Quality Circle is very excited about potential changes within the department.

**Get to know your Lunch Lady and Food Dudes too!**



This week we would like to introduce Debbie Duggins from Chico Jr. High School. She has been working for Chico Unified School District for 13 years. She got started in school food services because of her mother-in-law Barbara Duggins (Head Cook at Chico High). When Barbara retired, she told Debbie that since she loves kids so much, this would be a perfect job for her and she was right. As a kid, Debbie's favorite memory of school lunch was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade during her morning break their cook made homemade soup and the kids could buy a cup of soup on a cold morning. Debbie's favorite part of working for Chico Unified School District is our students. Debbie came from Neal Down and Little Chico Creek serving elementary students and has been enjoying the Jr. High students. Debbie lives in Orland and when she's not working, she enjoys making jewelry and wind chimes. She also enjoys painting and teaching her grandchildren how to work with beads and jewelry. Debbie is an energetic, hard working, dedicated lunch lady. Stop by Chico Jr. High School sometime and say hello to Debbie. Thank you Debbie!

**NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Classified Human Resources:** The Classified Human resources department is currently compiling their annual report. The annual report is information requested by the Personnel Commission which summarizes the activities of staff for the past fiscal year. This report will be presented at the November Commission meeting to the Personnel Commission and the public.

**Classified Job Openings:** We are currently accepting on-line applications for the following classification(s):

Job Posting	Online App	Date Posted	Location	Salary Info
<a href="#">Substitute Health Assistant</a> Posted: 10/1/2008 - Deadline: Until Filled Classified Staff	✓	10/1/2008	Chico Chico Butte County	Unified, \$12.86/Hour
<a href="#">Substitute Healthcare Assistant-Specialized</a> Posted: 9/23/2008 - Deadline: Until Filled Classified Staff	✓	9/23/2008	Chico Chico Butte County	Unified, \$17.66/Hour
<a href="#">Substitute Nutrition Services</a> Posted: 8/26/2008 - Deadline: Until Filled Classified Staff	✓	8/26/2008	Chico Chico Butte County	Unified, \$11.96/Hour and \$12.86/Hour

**CUSD IN THE NEWS**

**Enterprise Record**

[Letter: Reed, Sarsour share common qualities](#)

[Editorial: A five-minute election guide](#)

[Suspicious package that evacuated Chico High found to contain a book](#)

[Chico Jr. High students make their case for today's presidential choice](#)

[Jann Reed, Liz Griffin elected to Chico schools board](#)

[Letter: Love Chico story, outcome inspiring](#)

[Gravity still works](#)

[Bomb squad removes suspicious package](#)