



Compton Unified School District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Compton Unified's Board of Trustees Votes to Implement First Round of District-wide Cuts for 2010-11 School Year

COMPTON, Calif., — To offset an over \$40 million budget deficit, Compton Unified School District's (CUSD) Board of Trustees approved the first round of district-wide budget cuts for the 2010-11 school year Tuesday, February 16.

The first round includes over \$16 million in cuts, including a workforce reduction of over 200 classified and certificated CUSD staff, and a series of cost-savings measures designed to stabilize the district's finances without jeopardizing instructional programs. An additional \$9 million in cuts for 2010-11 will be decided this school year.

This is contingent on negotiations between the district and union leaders, and the introduction of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's revised state budget in May.

Cost-savings measures for the 2010-11 school year include a reduction in operational expenses ranging from legal fees and utilities fees to contracted services. The budget will also enact an increase of 25 to 1 in classroom sizes for grades K thru 3; producing savings over \$2.1 million. To continue reducing the budget over the next three years CUSD is considering numerous proposals including: possible school closures or school consolidation, re-evaluation of assets, energy saving measures, returning portable buildings not required for instructional and staffing purposes, and early retirement incentives that benefit employees.

Prior to the board's decision, Superintendent Kaye Burnside, Ed.D., certificated and classified staff, union leaders and CUSD's budget committee spent the past year

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discussing and developing cost-savings strategies. The district's budget committee includes three board members; four executive cabinet members; community members; and parent committee representatives John Trammell, chair, District Advisory Council (DAC) and Ingrid Meza, chair, District English Learner Advisory Council (DELAC).

According to Dr. Burnside, the district's budget strategies are based on two principles: making decisions in the best interest of all students and maintaining as many district employees as possible at all levels of the organization. "The district is well aware of the impact our budget will have on CUSD staff and community," Burnside said.

"Unfortunately, we are not immune to the state's economic woes, which prevent us from receiving the necessary funding to continue operating as we have in the past." She added, "The bottom line is that we will continue to move forward on behalf of children in spite of the drastic cuts to our funding from the state."

In the 2008-2009 school year 14 of CUSD's Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) elementary and middle schools doubled the state average of 13 percent on their Academic Performance Index (API) test scores with 26 percent; a feat unmatched by other Californian school districts. This year the district has continued to implement a series of accelerated and advanced learning initiatives for all elementary, middle and high school students. "We plan to use our categorical dollars to continue many of these programs. Our children must continue to make progress," said Burnside.

The district's Kindergarten Initiatives are incorporating a first grade curriculum that introduces students to basic math and language arts. CUSD also adopted the interactive and group work-based Swun Math learning model, which recently received state-wide recognition from Governor Schwarzenegger. To boost middle school students' math skills and prepare them for high school, the district is implementing Project Seed, which

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introduces sixth and seventh graders to Algebra. This spring the district will meet with teachers, parents and community members to begin designing secondary school reform for our middle and high schools. Participants will include nearby businesses, local universities and colleges, the National Association for Equal Justice in America (NAJEA), district alumni, and Compton’s Chamber of Commerce.

Deborah Willard, CUSD Associate Superintendent of Business Services, stated, “The board’s decision on Tuesday night was a step in the right direction towards maintaining the district’s fiscal solvency.” She added, “However, we still need concessions from the employee associations to help bridge the remaining \$9 million gap. We have no choice but to work together for the good of the students, employees and the district.”

Additional information may be obtained by contacting CUSD’s Office of Communications at (310) 604-6525 or by visiting www.compton.k12.ca.us.

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