

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Board of Education
February 27, 2008**

<p>The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Carpenter with all members present.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
<p>The following persons were present: Zoe Carpenter, President Marv Gilbert, Vice President Joan Gardner, Clerk Royce Moore, Member Linda Woods, Member Jennifer Walters, Superintendent Staff and press representatives</p>	<p>Present</p>
<p>The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marv Gilbert.</p>	<p>Pledge</p>
<p>President Carpenter welcomed everyone and reviewed the protocols that would be used during this budget workshop. She moved the order of the budget staff report to precede community input so that audience members could hear the information prior to their speaking to the board.</p>	<p>Oral Communications</p>
<p>Superintendent Walters prefaced the staff report with remarks about the Governor's proposed 2008-09 budget. The latest figures show that California is reported to have a shortfall of \$16 billion, which could rise before the May Revise. Anticipating that substantial reductions will be made in the state's funding for public education, and with the district continuing to decline in enrollment, it is expected that \$12 million would need to be cut from next year's budget.</p>	
<p>Carol Rouse, Director of Fiscal Services, detailed the funding cuts from the Governor's budget and the effect it will have on EUSD. As a result of not adequately addressing the state's budget shortfall for many years, coupled with the economic slowdown, major cuts are needed.</p>	
<p>Key elements of the state budget reductions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Across-the-board cuts to all state-funded programs, most in excess of 10 percent and estimated to be a total of \$1.7 billion statewide• Mid-year reductions signed by the Governor last week reduced Proposition 98 by \$507 million• Suspension in 2008-09 of \$4 billion to Proposition 98• No COLA for 2008-09; in fact, there will be a deficit of 6.99 percent imposed on top of revenue limits• Reductions to the current year's budget of \$400 million• Dramatic cuts have been proposed for social and health services	

- Special Education funding especially hard hit with net reductions of about \$30 per ADA (making up the deficit will be the responsibility of the districts from their general fund)

Despite less money, student achievement benchmarks go up in 2008-09 and federal program funding will not be increased to help districts absorb some of their losses. It was announced today that funding for districts in program improvement such as EUSD would remain at the current level. Programs set for elimination include Medi-Cal, Title V, and major reductions to Reading First, Title IV, and Safe and Drug Free Schools.

Carol reviewed how the district spends its money and what the increased costs would be to the district for health care benefits, step and column increases, two percent raise for all employee groups (if approved), utilities, insurance, backfilling losses to categorical programs, special education transportation, routine restricted maintenance, etc.

Gina Manusov reviewed all the potential budget reductions and the estimated savings associated with each one. The list is attached to these minutes.

President Carpenter asked if there were any persons wishing to speak to an item on the agenda or on another topic that lies within the board's jurisdiction. The following people spoke:

- Kimberly Bloodgood – asked that the two percent COLA increase employees will be voting to accept be rejected so that teaching positions can be saved.
- Patti Kamholz – asked that a class size increase to kindergarten only be 25 and not the 30 being proposed.

President Carpenter told the board members that if there is an item that they feel they would never support, and two other board members agree, that item would be removed. Anything they wish to add will be added and staff will research potential savings.

Linda Woods is concerned about reducing both assistant principals and counselors at the middle schools to only one each. She would like to see staffing for these positions, as well as others being proposed for reduction/elimination, be determined by enrollment, rather than large and small schools being treated alike.

Joan Gardner asked if the insurance committee has explored the possibility of having employees with dependents pay what is above the cost of employee-only benefits.

President Carpenter shared research she did and reported that California ranks 51st in the nation (including Washington, D. C.) for the student-to-adult ratio. She and Linda Woods made the plea that the word get out to contact legislators about this travesty; particularly when the gross national product of California ranks among the top 10 in the world, and at one time the top 3, but ranks at the bottom for its support of public education.

Royce Moore has concerns about eliminating two assistant principal positions at the middle schools. Without sufficient assistant principals, the role of principal as the school's instructional leader could be comprised. Having been a middle school principal, he knows that running a middle school with over a 1,000 students plus a large staff would make it difficult to have the time to do frequent classroom observations.

Marv Gilbert echoed the concerns about eliminating assistant principals. He added his support to having staff bring back additional information and would like to see if cuts could be made in other areas.

It was moved by Linda Woods, seconded by Royce Moore, and passed 5-0 to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.

Adjournment

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct copy of the actions of the Board of Education at a regular meeting, as recorded in these minutes.

Jennifer Walters, Superintendent

Marv Gilbert, Clerk

