

LVEA TODAY



Thanks for ALL You Do, and Congrats to Brittany Stone as well as Our Retirees!

Wow, what a school year! With the missed days from the smoke last fall and Covid-19 this spring, this has been a wild experience. In our visits, conversations and Zoom sessions, we have seen many creative and courageous efforts to make our district's learning environment the best possible for all students, especially given these challenging circumstances. We're sure you haven't heard it enough, but your efforts are deeply appreciated and we look forward to including your input as we plan for an uncertain 2020-21.

Each June, LVEA presents the Roberta Consani Distinguished Member Award to an outstanding leader on our team. Brittany Stone is this year's recipient. She has served as our LVEA Vice-President for several years and as a site rep for Willow for many more years. She is highly respected by her peers and administrators and regularly contributes to decision making bodies that enhance working conditions for employees and improve circular programs for our students. Her contributions are invaluable!

Thanks also for the years of contributions by our certificated, administrative and classified employees that have decided to retire. Specifically, the following certificated employees have chosen to retire and start the next chapter of their life: Cindy Montgomery (White Oak), Greg Bostrom (AE Wright), Jody Morikawa (AE Wright), Katherine Blaiwes (Agoura HS), Lynn Coleman (Agoura HS), Margie Selke (Calabasas HS), Linda Jacobsen (Special Services), Carolyn Barnes (Special Services), Annette Hudgens (Round Meadow) and Peggy Stevenson (Round Meadow). Thanks to all of you and good luck with your future plans!

State Budget Update

As you have probably read in the papers, the State is in dire financial straits due to the closure of virtually all business in CA. We will attempt to give a summary of what has happened and what we know right now. As we saw during the Great Recession, information is changing constantly, so by the time you read this, some of the information may have changed.

January-

The Governor released his budget. It had increases in funding to many programs and had a 2.31% COLA for our main funding source (LCFF).

May-

After about two months of closure, the Governor released his May Revision. It slashed programs that he had proposed for increases- some entirely eliminated and some cut as much as 50%. It cuts our LCFF funding by 10%. The way they reach this number is to increase our

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guaranteed funding by the COLA of 2.31% and then cuts 10%, which would be a cut of 7.69% from the funding from this year. The reason they included the COLA and then cut 10% was to keep track of what we will eventually be paid back due to our Prop 98 guarantee. For comparison purposes, this cut is deeper than any of the years of the Great recession.

The Legislature has been negotiating the May Revise in their committees to try to blunt the cuts. We do not know when the budget will eventually be passed, but by law, it must be done by June 15. One complicating factor

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that may delay that approval is the postponement of income taxes to July 15. CTA expects that we will have a budget on time, but you never know...

Here is what the State Senate is considering-

- Fully funding the Local Control Funding Formula, including the 2.31% COLA
- An average daily attendance hold harmless for local educational agencies in the 2020–21 fiscal year and requiring distance learning in the event of school closures
- Amending the Governor's special education proposal to provide \$545 million to increase Assembly Bill 602 base rates and \$100 million for a low incidence disabilities cost pool
- Funding K–12 categorical programs at their 2019–20 levels, including all Career Technical Education programs and the After School Education Safety Program
- Funding adult education programs at the 2019–20 levels

Here is what the State Assembly is considering-

- A new tax on businesses with more than 500 employees (\$275 per employee per year). This takes a 2/3 vote of the Legislature. This money would be used to help schools and pay for Covid-related costs around the state. They also seem to be in agreement with the Senate's ideas.

The Governor must sign the bill, so if they can't work it out, it may push the signing of the budget past the June 15 deadline. We also recently reported that the state legislature has proposed a redistribution of the CARES federal money along the LCFF model as opposed to Newsom's desire for the money to go to concentration grant based districts; i.e. LVUSD would be excluded. This continues to be a point of contention between Newsom and the legislature.

At the national level, the House passed the HEROES Act which would bring in an additional \$175B to schools nationwide. The Governor has committed to, if passed, eliminating most of the cuts proposed for this year.

What does all of this mean for us? If the cuts in the May Revision come to pass we would be looking at cutting \$30M over the next three years.

These cuts could lead to reductions to our members. If past is prologue, we MAY see:

- Layoffs. There is a provision in the law that allows the district to do summer layoffs if the state budget comes in under a positive 2% COLA (proposed by Governor Newsom but currently opposed by the legislature). This requires the budget to be passed on time, which we are not 100% sure will happen. So the current legislature's proposal makes August layoffs less likely – and that's great!
 - o All of the groups in the district will likely be looking at reductions, including administration. On a related note, Conejo USD is considering \$1.9M in cuts to admin.
- Furloughs. During the Great Recession the State gave districts the ability to cut school days. We do not yet have that flexibility from the state, so if there are furloughs, it would only be staff development and prep days.
- Programs. There are many programs around the district that may be cut.

To be clear- NOTHING is set right now. There is so much uncertainty about what is coming from the State and county offices we cannot give you any hard facts. Everything we have outlined is potential, not certain. At last week's Board meeting, the District discussed the possibility of laying off 25 certificated employees districtwide. Our District can consider this only if there's a signed state budget that necessitates the cuts as discussed above. With the Senate and Assembly challenging the governor on this, the budgetary projections have become more confusing. Layoffs and furlough days are up in the air and we won't know anything firm until later this summer. Also, if tenured employees are laid off, they have first right of refusal on subbing in the district, and once they've subbed for 20 days, they'll receive their daily rate retroactive to their first subbing date. So why lay them off in the first place!

Obviously, this will be an on-going and changing discussion over the next two months. Stay tuned for more updates!