

BERRYESSA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT NEGOTIATION NEWS

Special Edition

To promote transparency and open communication with the community, employees and other interested individuals, the Berryessa Union School District's Negotiation Team will provide accurate, factual and timely updates about its negotiations with CTAB soon after each session.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC STATE RECESSION IMPACTS THE SCHOOLS:

MAY REVISE STATE BUDGET WOULD MEAN REDUCTION OF \$5 MILLION TO BUSD

Governor Proposes Across the Board Cut in LCFF Funding, Resulting in

2020-2021 COLA of Negative 7.92% and

Zero COLA for Subsequent Three Years

Receipt of State Funds to be Deferred This Year and Next Year

Parties Sign Tentative Agreements on Non-Cost Language Articles

Bargaining teams for BUSD and CTAB met on May 20, 2020 to review the May Revise State Budget issued by the Governor on May 14, 2020 and continue negotiations over non-cost proposals to modify the contract for the 2020-2021 school year. A summary is provided below:

Covid-19 Pandemic State Recession Impacts The Schools:

May Revise State Budget Would Mean Reduction of \$5 Million To BUSD

Shutdown of the state economy due to "shelter in place," with resulting record unemployment has closed off much of the revenue stream that would normally flow into the state budget and eventually to K-12 public schools. This unprecedented drop in revenue was reflected in the Governor's May Revise Budget proposal, major areas of which were presented by the District to CTAB, including the following:

- Even before the pandemic, the County Office warned the District that it was spending down one-time reserves in order to balance the budget, stating "we have concerns for the long-term fiscal outlook for the district."
- The 2.32% COLA for 2020-2021 will be deflated by 10%, resulting in a "negative COLA" of 7.92%. This means all LCFF funds – the base grant, grade span adjustments (e.g., TK-3), supplemental and concentration

May 26, 2020

District's Negotiations
With CTAB

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Pathway to the Future

Next Scheduled
meeting on:

June 17, 2020

Meet the Team

Darrien Johnson, M. Ed.-
Assistant Superintendent of
Personnel

Kevin Franklin- Assistant
Superintendent of Business

Joseph McCreary, Ed. D.-
Assistant Superintendent of
Education Services

Chris Mosley- Principal of
Sierramont Middle School

Andrea Ortiz- Principal of
Noble Elementary School

Jamie Garcia-
Administrative Assistant of
Human Resources

Gregory Dannis- Legal
Counsel

grants would be reduced by 7.92% (the District no longer qualifies for concentration grants).

- The above cut would result in BUSD receiving about \$5 million less in LCFF funding in 2020-2021 compared to this year.
- Receipt of state funds would also be deferred this year and next year. This means the District would not receive June 2020 state funding until July 2020; this is proposed to happen three more times next school year.
- These “deferrals” will place BUSD and many districts at risk of not having enough “cash on hand” to meet expenses in a timely manner unless loans can be arranged.
- It is likely that the state economy and resulting impact on schools will be worse in the 2021-2022 school year because the full impact of unemployment, loss of personal income and less income taxes to the state).
- The Governor emphasized that the only realistic way to avoid the kinds of cuts proposed would be through significant financial assistance from the federal government.

In addition to the dramatic cut in funding, the District informed CTAB of losses in local revenue (like lease payments) and increases in expenditures related to COVID-19 for such things as food service (meals), technology (chrome books and hot spots) and supplies for sanitizing, deep cleaning, etc. (some state and federal funds were received to offset these increased costs).

The Budget: Next Steps

The Governor and Legislature will now begin negotiations over parameters of a final state budget to be adopted by the constitutional June 15 deadline. This budget probably will not, however, be the “final picture” for 2020-2021 state funding of schools. This is because the income tax filing deadline - normally April 15 – has been extended to July 15. Normally this information would be available to inform the May Revise; now, however, the state will not know the amount of personal income tax revenue until July 15 – a full month after the June 15 state budget deadline. Due to these factors, an “August Revised Budget” is very likely.

Parties Sign Tentative Agreements on Non-Cost Language Articles

Given the current budget crisis, the District agreed to identify and move forward with negotiations over areas that have no possibility of increasing expenditures. Except for the areas below, nearly all of CTAB's proposals and remaining articles of the contract are cost items. The parties reached tentative agreements on the following articles:

- Recognition: Updated description of bargaining unit to cover all present and future certificated positions, excluding management/supervisory etc. positions.
- Organizational Security: District proposal made last October (regarding “agency fees” being declared unconstitutional by the *Janus* decision).

- New Employee Orientation and Employee Information: New article containing previous MOU incorporating new law on union access to employee orientations and contact information.
- Leave Provisions: Removed definition regarding taking of personal necessity and added 3 day prior notice requirement except when reasons for leave are unforeseeable. Moved up deadline for intent to return from leave from April 1 to February 1 to assist with timely and efficient staffing.

NEXT STEPS The next session is June 17, 2020. At that time the District will review with CTAB the final state budget (if passed on time) and determine whether the financial picture has improved to a point that remaining cost items can be addressed.