

# CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

84 EAST "J" STREET • CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910 • 619 425-9600

EACH CHILD IS AN INDIVIDUAL OF GREAT WORTH

March 10, 2010

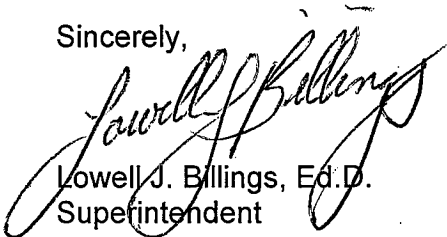
Dear Parents and Community Members:

On March 9, 2010, the Chula Vista Elementary School District Board of Education took action to authorize release notices for over 400 certificated employees. This action does not mean that all of these employees will lose their jobs, but does make it possible for the District to release them if the final budget situation for next year requires fewer staff. Education Code Section 44949 requires possible layoff notices be sent to certificated employees prior to March 15. The notification date is well in advance of a final state budget. The Governor's January Budget is only a proposed plan, but serves as the basis for our District's current budget forecast. With a proposed \$15 million shortfall, District payroll must be reduced in order to create a balanced budget consistent with Assembly Bill 2756 (Daucher). Layoffs are one means to reduce payroll.

The state has lost over 20 percent of its tax revenue and must cut expenditures to match revenues. This means that public education will see another year of reduced funding. This is our fourth year of declining revenue and reductions will go even deeper into our system. Over 85 percent of our District's budget is allocated to employee salaries and benefits. Many of the certificated employees who receive a provisional March Notice will lose their current position and some will lose employment. Pending cuts in our District Office support services and school-funded support services will send most, if not all Resource Teachers back to regular classroom assignments. Failure to provide layoff notices in a timely manner before March 15 leaves our District without any options to reduce certificated staff. This potential layoff process impacts both our teachers and administrators. We must be prepared for the worst until clear direction on the budget is provided by the state. This is not a scare tactic. It is our District's only option. It is our responsibility to maintain a balanced budget.

Reduction of staff is not a goal, but may well be a byproduct of budget reduction pressures. The severity of these cuts will not be known for many weeks. We have additional bargaining dates reserved with our teachers' union and more to come with our classified employees' organization. We are still anxiously awaiting news from Sacramento on how the state's fiscal crisis will be resolved and what the burden will look like for the public school system. In the end, we must make do with whatever resources are provided and continue to provide quality educational experiences for your children.

Sincerely,



Lowell J. Billings, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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