

CUCPTSA Legislation Briefs – February 2010

LOCAL

- **CUSD Budget:** Due to the Governor's January budget proposal, the CUSD budget deficit for the 2010/2011 school year is now approx \$34 million. Midyear cuts are still unknown
- **Negotiations (PTA REMAINS NEUTRAL AT ALL TIMES):** Fact Finding failed to reach an agreement on January 26. A written report will be issued within 30 days. The CUEA executive board and the CUSD Board of Trustees may vote to accept or reject the fact finder's report.
- **Ballot Measure Changing the Way CUSD Trustees are Elected:** The parent group that submitted the petition to change the way trustees are elected asked that the initiative be placed on the November ballot rather than in June. The OC Committee on School District Organization will hold a public hearing for on Wednesday February 10 at 7:00 pm at the district office to reevaluate the June election date.
- **Special Board Meeting – February 2, 2010:** The purpose of the meeting was to plan the search process and establish a timeline for hiring a permanent superintendent. The goal is to have a superintendent by June who can lead CUSD for the next 5-10 years.

STATE

- **State Budget:** On Friday, January 8, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger unveiled an \$82.9 billion state spending plan. The governor is proposing a three-part deficit-closing solution:
 - \$8.5 billion in spending cuts
 - \$4.5 billion in "revenue shifts," some of which were rejected by voters last year
 - \$6.9 billion in additional money from the federal government
- **Proposed Cuts to K-12 Education and Proposition 98** - Proposition 98 funding is reduced by \$892.6 million in 2009-10 by making cuts to:
 - Funding for the K-3 Class Size Reduction Program (\$340 million)
 - General purpose funds for school districts and county offices of education (\$229.3 million)
 - Proposition 98 funding for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Juvenile Justice Division and State Special Schools (\$17.8 million)
 - Categorical funding (\$14.3 million)
 - **Proposed Ballot Initiative:** The Governor has proposed a Constitutional Amendment ballot measure which would require the state to spend no more than 7 percent of general fund money on corrections and no less than 10 percent on the University of California and California State University systems. In 2009-10, the state is spending 5.7 percent of general fund money on UC and CSU, compared to 9.5 percent on corrections in the governor's revised budget.
 - **Race to the Top Funds:** Based on the information our Legislative Team members received last Tuesday on our trip to Sacramento, it does not look good for California to receive any funds from the federal government in the first round of the Race to the Top funding.
 - **Update on Lieutenant Governor:** Lieutenant governor nominee, Abel Maldonado, cleared his Senate Rules Committee confirmation hearing Feb 3 with a 4-0 vote.
 - **California Education Secretary Resigns:** Glen Thomas, appointed California's Secretary of Education by Gov. Schwarzenegger in January, 2009, resigned Tuesday in order to take care of his elderly mother.

FEDERAL

- **White House Budget Proposal:** President Obama released his budget proposal for the 2011 fiscal year, which included some increased funding for education. The additional funds are allocated to ESEA (\$3 billion increase), Race to the Top Program (\$1.35 billion) and the Investing in Innovation Fund (\$500 million).
- **State of the Union:** President Obama discussed the importance of amending and reauthorizing ESEA, and also called for Congress to pass the Jobs for Main Street Act to save and create teaching jobs in education. Obama also discussed the link between an educated nation and a strong economy.