

PAEA BUZZZ

MAY 2008

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PALO ALTO EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

DID YOU KNOW...

Superintendent Skelly met with teachers last Thursday, 4/24 to discuss their concerns about rising class sizes. The district is facing financial pressures due to slowing property tax growth, California State Education Budget cuts, inflation and enrollment growth. The School Board and administration have discussed a variety of ways to balance the budget. There will be: cutbacks on categorical expenditures, staff development and the superintendent's budget, postponement of previously approved expenditures and transfer of interest earnings from reserves to the general fund for '08-'09. In addition the district plans to staff more efficiently next year. The reduction of one class per grade level across the district at K through 5 and tighter staffing at the middle and high schools is projected to save \$1.2 million.

Teacher's concerns about the loss of 6 classes were voiced. An increase to 23 or 24 might be the start of a slippery slope. Many classes mainstream students from special education classes and are already at 24. Librarians and the Traveling P.E. and Music Teachers brought up the fact that they teach a class and a half so the new levels will bring their counts to 36 or 40. Middle and high school PE teachers were present and mentioned the dangers in PE swim classes of 40.

Dr. Skelly stated his goal of raising teacher salaries in order to continue to attract and retain the best teachers. He depicted a teacher hiring scenario in which, "...there is usually one stand-out that all districts want - we've got to win those star teachers...".

The meeting ended on a positive note with Dr. Skelly remarking on the professional attitude shown by the teachers and the teachers thanking Dr. pSkelly for his time and the chance to talk openly.

What are you doing May 14th?

Grab a friend or three and join your colleagues and community members in demonstrating your opposition to the Education Budget cuts proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

WHERE: EL CAMINO REAL in front of Stanford Shopping Center

WHEN: MAY 14th after school

WEAR: Red, white and blue

Palo Alto teachers and community members are joining other teachers state wide on the Day of the Teacher to let our Sacramento legislators know that it is not okay to cut school budgets and sacrifice a child's education. Add your voice to the multitude!

AND afterwards plan a festive celebration with your colleagues at one of the great local restaurants.

May Rep Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 5/22, 4:00–6:00 PM at JLS Middle School. Hosts Bobbie Whiteman, Hayley Dupuy, Jay Brethauer

Education Budget: Below are the emails or websites for your legislative representatives. Let them know what you think. Most legislators have an email form on their website.

Senator Barbara Boxer www.boxer.senate.gov
 Senator Dianne Feinstein www.feinstein.senate.gov
 Representative Anna Eshoo www.eshoo.house.gov
 Senator Joe Simitian Senator.Simitian@senate.ca.gov
 Assemblyman Ira Ruskin www.democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a21/
 A useful site for finding lawmakers and contacting them is:
<http://capwiz.com/nea/ca/state/main/?state=CA>

Site Reps for 07-08

Addison- Joanne Geraghty	Barron Park Ashley Emling	Briones Mary Goodkind Joane Soraghan	Children's Hospital Cammy Sunde	Duveneck Mangla Oza Doug Burress	El Carmelo Annette Isaacson
Escondido Richard Garcia Amanda Dungan	Fairmeadow Valerie Sabbag	Greendell Marion Krause	Gunn G. Dominguez Yukie Hikida Judy Niizawa Sarah Stapp John Friedrich	Hays Chris Grierson	Hoover Lonnie Spencer
JLS Jay Brethauer Hayley Dupuy Bobbie Whiteman	Jordan Millie Balsam Mark Allendorf	Nixon Beryl Deremigio Janice Mulholland	Ohlone Cindy Halstead Frankie Murray	Palo Verde Pat Hanley Sheri Cundall	PALY Kay Gibson Eric Bloom Carla Guerard Emily Garrison
Terman Lynn Repetsky Mark Dungan Martin Vetter	Traveling /Music BJ Floersheim	Traveling/PE Karen Dolkas	25 Churchill Open		