

President's Update 1-6 to 1-10-2020

Welcome back! I hope you were able to restore your energy and have a wonderful time with your loved ones in good health.

Community Engagement Grant

Good news! MEA earned a CTA Community Engagement Grant. If you will recall, last year we authored a Membership Engagement Grant. It paid for, among other things, conference attendance for two of our newest teachers as well a couple of social events. The first event sponsored by the 2020 Grant takes place this Thursday at Enegren's Brewery. Your MEA leaders will be there to converse with you. Our reps also invited members of our community to meet and greet our Bargaining and Executive teams. The expressed purpose of the grant is to facilitate improved communication and understanding between members and stakeholders. Hope to see you there. We will have pizza and you'll receive a drink ticket for beer, wine, or a soft drink.

As with the 2018-19 Grant, MEA will have money to send members to CTA conferences this year. Let me or your site rep know if you are interested in attending one. Last, MEA will host a new teacher information night as per Rep Council's request. At this event, we will inform new teachers about investment possibilities, retirement, and CTA Benefits—all the things I wish I knew about during my first couple of years as a teacher.

Meeting with Latasha Jamal

On Friday, Jake and I met with Latasha Jamal, MUSD's Chief Budget Officer (CBO), to discuss keeping lines of communication open, health care, and MUSD's First Interim Budget. Coincidentally, we met with her right as Governor Newsom released his proposed 2020-21 State Budget. Jake and I trust the CBO's numbers and her explanations despite the relatively lousy forecast. Here are some basic takeaways:

1. Enrollment declined by 55 kids, so LCFF/ADA funding has declined.
2. The State mandated some changes in categories. One example is now Districts have to put aside money for maintenance that equals its cash reserve.
3. Ventura County reduced its SELPA money to the Districts. In MUSD's budget this becomes a reduction of \$228,000 in revenue.
4. All school districts saw an increase in their STRS/PERS obligation.

Governor's January State Budget

In the next few weeks, Jake and I will break down the Governor's numbers and provide insight into how they relate to MUSD. At this point, MEA is not in a position to proceed beyond the data; however, we should have enough information to generate our initial offer for 2019-20 to the District by the first week in February. Here are highlights of Governor Newsom's State Budget:

- COLA is 2.29%
- \$4 billion in new money; \$1.2 billion increase to LCFF
- Proposition 98 funding increase to \$496 per student ADA, overall \$12,660 for 2020-21
- \$900 million for staff development grants for mental health, SPED, EL support, STEM, and anti-bullying
- \$900 million additional funding for SPED
- \$300 million for Community Schools
- \$70 million increase for more nutritious meals
- Creates a new Department of Early Childhood Development
- \$100 million in stipends to fund 5,000 new teachers to teach in high demand subjects (math, science, SPED, bilingual ed) at “high need” schools (MUSD does not have schools that qualify as high need)
- \$193 million in grants for prospective teachers who commit to teaching at least 4 years in high demand subjects
- \$64 million for classified staff who attempt to pursue certificated credential

CISC Meeting (1/11/2020)

As you may know, MEA belongs to the Channel Islands Service Center. CISC consists of public education associations from the Tri-Counties, Atascadero to Oak Park (Oak Park never attends). Overall, the meetings are pretty tame, but they do grant MEA insight into what’s happening in neighboring districts. Here’s some of what I heard:

- ✓ Atascadero USD received a 1.25% pay increase
- ✓ Lucia Mar USD received a 1.75% pay increase on schedule and .3% off
- ✓ Templeton USD received a 1.5% pay increase
- ✓ Ventura is asking for 3.25% pay increase (VUSD is the only CISC participant whose members do not pay a monthly contribution towards health care benefits)
- ✓ Hueneme hired 19 new SPED teachers this year. Their First Interim Budget predicts a \$2.75 million shortfall. They may have to RIF up to 20 teachers!

Moorpark USD Bond Issue

Next week, MUSD will begin canvassing the city in an attempt to inform more of its citizens about the upcoming bond issue. MEA, CSEA, and MUSD encourage as many of our stakeholders as possible to get involved and help promote the bond’s success. Let’s walk and talk for it!

Have a great weekend!

Brian