

San Diego City Schools

Staff Bulletin – January 7, 2004

Budget Update

In an effort to keep employees apprised of the budget situation, articles will appear regularly in *Staff Bulletin* providing updates as information becomes available.

Recent Board of Education Actions

The Board of Education took several actions at their December 9, 2003 board meeting including: approving the First Interim Financial Report; appointing members to the Board of Education Audit Committee; establishing a third board meeting each month, beginning in January 2004, to focus solely on the budget until the budget situation is solved; and approving \$17.2 million in deferrals, funding shifts and other actions, to deal with 2003-04 budget deficit and to establish a projected \$14 million ending balance.

Superintendent Budget Recommendations

During a presentation on December 18, 2004, the Superintendent announced that he would recommend to the Board of Education that there be no mid-year personnel cuts for 2003-04 and a hiring freeze was being implemented effective 5:00 p.m. on December 18, 2003. In addition, he indicated that the district was notifying unions (SDEA and CSEA) that the Board has authorized the district to exercise its option to reopen negotiations over Article 9 (Health and Welfare benefits) for the 2004-05 school year.

The Superintendent also indicated that he would recommend to the Board of Education that for the 2004-05 budget the district should avoid classroom teacher layoffs; minimize central office classified layoffs; request proposals for reductions at school sites from principals and their school communities; that the hiring freeze should continue; and that the district maximize its use of assets including real estate to reduce the deficit.

Key Dates in the Budget Process include:

- January 2004 - Principals are provided information about the site budget reduction process
- February 1, 2004 - Principals provide site-based budget recommendations to the district
- March 2004 - Second Interim Financial Report is presented to the Board
- March 15, 2004 - Notices are sent to certificated staff who are affected by 2004-05 budget decisions
- April 29, 2004 - Notices are sent to classified staff who are affected by 2004-05 budget decisions
- By June 30, 2004 - Adoption of balanced 2004-05 budget by Board of Education

Budget Communications and Outreach Efforts

On December 2 and 3, 2003, a budget update was provided to site administrators. At that time, site administrators provided feedback on guiding principles for budget actions and suggestions for what should be maintained and what could be reduced at school sites. On December 10, parent delegates heard a budget update at the Parent Congress, and delegates were asked to provide feedback on priorities for funding at the school site level. Additional communications and outreach efforts are being planned to provide information regarding the budget to parent organizations, employees and the community in early 2004.

Superintendent Budget Advisory Committee

This is a committee comprised of representatives from each of the district's employee groups as well as parent leaders who meet to be provided with updated information on the budget and to discuss the budget situation.

District Website on Budget Situation

Up-to-date information can be found on the district's website at www.sandi.net/budget.

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San Diego City Schools Ranks High Among Urban Districts

New Study Compares Districts Across Country

San Diego City Schools (SDCS) fourth and eighth grade students are scoring higher than those in other large central cities, according to the results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress's (NAEP) second Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) which was released by The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) in December.

About the Trial Urban District Assessment

In 2002, five urban school districts participated in NAEP's first TUDA; in 2003, nine urban districts, including the original 5, participated in the TUDA in reading and mathematics at grades 4 and 8. The results are reported by district as well as "national public school average" and public schools in "large central cities" (as defined by the census with populations of 250,000 or more) average. NAEP allows comparisons to be made over time by:

- Subgroups: Race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, limited English proficient
- Student performance
- Achievement levels and scale scores

This was the first year SDCS participated in the TUDA study, a subset of the NAEP program, now possible because there is a large enough sample to compare districts. SDCS regularly participates in NAEP.

San Diego City Schools Outscores Large Central Cities in Reading and Mathematics

"While this is the first year San Diego City Schools has participated in the TUDA, the results provide us a baseline from which to compare future growth, as well as let us see how our student achievement compares to other urban districts from around the country," said Chief Academic Officer Mary Hopper. "We are extremely pleased to see that San Diego City Schools outpaces many comparable districts. It is a validation of the hard work of our teachers, students, parents and communities."

While the TUDA provides a district-by-district comparison, it should be noted that districts vary by demographics and by testing procedures. For example, while San Diego City Schools had as many as 30 percent of students tested identified as limited English proficient, other districts had as few as 2 percent. And, San Diego City Schools excluded very few students from testing, as compared to other districts that excluded up to 26 percent of students. These, combined, can provide a skewed comparison.

Average scores in reading and mathematics are reported on a 0-500 scale.

Reading Grade 4

SDCS scored an average NAEP reading score of 208 for grade 4, compared to the average score of 205 for large central cities. The average reading score for California was 206 for grade 4. The average national public school NAEP reading score for grade 4 was 216.

Reading Composite
Grade 4
Average Scale Score—All students in grade

Jurisdictions	Number of Students	Average Scale Score
Charlotte	1676	219
National Public	179013	216

New York City	2403	210
San Diego	1732	208
Houston	1889	207
Boston	1445	206
Large Central Cities		205
Chicago	2162	198
Atlanta	1645	197
Cleveland	1660	195
Los Angeles	2806	194
District of Columbia	2713	188

NOTE: The NAEP Reading scale ranges from 0 to 500. Observed differences are not necessarily statistically significant.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Assessments.

Reading Grade 8

In grade 8, SDCS scored an average of 250, compared with 249 for large central cities and 261 for national public schools. The average reading score for California was 251 for grade 8.

Reading Composite
Grade 8
Average Scale Score— All students

Jurisdictions	Number of Students	Average Scale Score
Charlotte	1385	262
National Public	146351	261
Boston	1268	252
New York City	1707	252
San Diego	1236	250
Large Central Cities		249
Chicago	1900	248
Houston	1660	246
Atlanta	1470	240
Cleveland	1038	240
District of Columbia	1922	239
Los Angeles	1963	234

NOTE: The NAEP Reading scale ranges from 0 to 500. Observed differences are not necessarily statistically significant.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Assessments.

Mathematics Grade 4

In mathematics, the SDCS's average NAEP score in grade 4 was 226, compared to 224 for large central cities. The average score for California was 227 for grade 4 and National averages were 234 for grade 4.

Mathematics Composite
Grade 4
Average Scale Score— All students

Jurisdictions	Number of Students	Average Scale Score
Charlotte	1761	242
National Public	184325	234

Houston	2303	227
San Diego	1739	226
New York City	2284	226
Large Central Cities		224
Boston	1515	220
Atlanta	1640	216
Los Angeles	2978	216
Cleveland	1749	215
Chicago	2225	214
District of Columbia	2748	205

NOTE: The NAEP Mathematics scale ranges from 0 to 500. Observed differences are not necessarily statistically significant.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Mathematics Assessments.

Mathematics Grade 8

For grade 8 students, the average score for SDCS was 264, compared to 262 for large central cities. The average score for California was 267 for grade 8. The national average was 276 for grade 8.

**Mathematics Composite
Grade 8
Average Scale Score– All students**

Jurisdictions	Number of Students	Average Scale Score
Charlotte	1372	279
National Public	147600	276
New York City	1694	266
San Diego	1239	264
Houston	1684	264
Boston	1264	262
Large Central Cities		262
Chicago	1956	254
Cleveland	1125	253
Los Angeles	1921	245
Atlanta	1501	244
District of Columbia	1888	243

NOTE: The NAEP Mathematics scale ranges from 0 to 500. Observed differences are not necessarily statistically significant.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Mathematics Assessments.

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San Diego City Schools Makes Spending Holidays in the Hospital a Little More Bearable

San Diego City Schools once again participated in the countywide teddy bear drive to benefit Children’s Hospital. More than 1,300 bears were collected and delivered to Children’s Hospital on City School buses December 15. The number matches last year, but some bears are still being tallied!

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Board President and Vice President Elected

On December 9, 2003, the Board of Education held its annual election for president and vice president. Ron Ottinger was reelected president and Katherine Nakamura was reelected vice president. Trustee Zimmerman abstained from both votes.

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News You Can Use

- The semi-annual **Student Recognition Awards Ceremony** will be held on January 27, 2004 to recognize many of the district's exceptional student achievers. Students are awarded for outstanding achievements based on strict guidelines that require a first place award at the countywide or regional level. All subjects and programs-academic, arts, athletic, social services and others-are considered and recognized. The ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. during the Board of Education Meeting in the Eugene Brucker Education Center Auditorium. Students will be honored by the Board of Education, Superintendent Alan D. Bersin, parents, peers and district staff. The ceremony will be televised on ITV, Channel 16. Any questions should be addressed to Lisa Jaycox at (619) 725-5598 or ejaycox@mail.sandi.net.

- The **Women's Technology Program at MIT** is looking for female applicants for their 4-week-long summer residence program. The program aims to introduce high school girls to the fields of electrical engineering and computer science. The program is open to current female high school juniors, preferably with demonstrated math and science abilities and an interest in electrical engineering and computer science. If you or someone you know is interested, please visit the website, <http://wtp.mit.edu>, for more information and an application form. Applications are due on February 3, 2004. The classes are taught in a supportive environment by a staff of female MIT PhD candidates and undergraduates. The full-time academic program includes hands-on experiments and team-based projects in computer science, electrical engineering and mathematics. The program aims to increase girls' interest and confidence in pursuing computer science and engineering and to make female students more aware of their potential for success in these fields.

- Art teachers, your students' artwork can be part of the **Superintendent Art Exhibition**, starting February 23rd and lasting through the month of March. Student artwork is needed to brighten the hallways of the Eugene Brucker Education Center! Please encourage your students to participate, and stop by the open house night on Wednesday, March 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. to visit the talent-filled student exhibits. If you need more information or would like to participate, please contact Marty Stegeman at (858) 539-5353 or mstegeman@mail.sandi.net.

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Hall of Fame

- In honor of our recycling, waste reduction and energy conservation efforts, San Diego City Schools received the "**Environmental Responsibility Award**" from the Industrial Environmental Association (IEA). IEA highlighted just a few of our environmental programs including: the district's lighting retrofit, the Energy Management Control System that monitors all heating and cooling from a central location; water conservation retrofits such as low-flush toilets; and our recycling/waste reduction program. The SDCS Energy/Utility Management team has earned a reputation for developing conservation programs that turn into major utility savings. Congratulations to the Energy/Utility Management team for spear-heading these programs, and thank you to all staff for participating in these environmental efforts. For more information on SDCS environmental programs, go to www.sandi.net/energy/.

• Monroe Clark Middle School has been named a **Year-Round School of Merit** for the 2003-2004 school year by the National Association for Year-Round Education. This special honor is based upon Monroe Clark's commitment to improving the educational experience of students through a balanced, extended year or multi-track calendar, using innovative means to involve staff, parents and community members in successful ways to enhance student achievement. This honor is bestowed on less than one percent of year-round schools. The award will be presented on February 8, 2004 at the Opening General Session of NAYRE's Annual Conference in San Diego at the Town and County Conference Center. Congratulations to all staff, parents and students at Monroe Clark Middle School, and keep up the great work. For more information on the NAYRE and the special award, go to www.nayre.org.

• The **Food Services/Logistics Division Holiday Toy Drive** resulted in the generous sharing of the holiday spirit with five SDCS district families. Employees from Food Services and the Logistics Division donated toys, books, games, bicycles and sports equipment and even family passes to the San Diego Zoo. Twenty seven children from five families at Chesterton, King, Kimbrough, Brooklyn and Marshall Elementary schools were the recipients of this generosity. Shirley-Cabri Rumrill from Food Services organized the Toy Drive

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Scenes from Schools

Oak Park Students Share Holiday Music and Cheerful Greetings with Local Elderly

On December 3, 2003, a group of students from the Oak Park Music Conservatory with Enriched Studies Band and Orchestra played for the residents at Pleasant Care of San Diego, a convalescent/retirement Home for elderly residents of San Diego. The students also made Holiday cards and passed them out to residents after their concert. It was a warm and sharing time between the generations.

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In Memoriam

Susan Guyader, whose service with the district began in October 1985, passed away on November 15, 2003. Mrs. Guyader was a teacher at Freese Elementary at the time of her death.

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Classifieds

ADS RUN ON SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS - Send to Communications Office, Room 2145, Eugene Brucker Education Center. Limit to 15 words (not including phone) or ad will not be accepted. Include work location and phone (for ID purposes only).

For Sale:

- **'96 Mitsubishi Galant LS**, perfect cond., well kept, fully loaded, automatic, 100K, 4dr., pearl green w/moon roof, leather, security sys., stereo, new brakes, timing belt, water pump, tires, orig. owner, all maint. records, \$4,900/obo, 858-578-0728;
- **Parks refractor telescope**, 60mmD w/2 eyepieces, instruction kit, recently cleaned/reconditioned, orig. \$500, asking \$150, 619-871-7444;
- **Baby items**, Graco highchair, baby backpack, furniture in like new condition, karen_mckelvey@hotmail.com or 858-272-8951;
- **'65 Chevy Impala SS, 327**, vinyl top, orig. owner, garaged, new tires, \$8,700/obo, 858-278-7516;

• **Two Black, Brand New Velvet Sofas**, mint condition, purchase price \$1200.00, best offer. Please contact Lupe at (619) 725-7674;

For Rent:

- **Fashion Hills, 3bd/2ba townhome**, 2 car garage, beautiful views, Feb. 1st, \$2,300, 858-268-1999;
- **Furnished Room in 3 BD Santee Townhouse**, \$475 w/utilities, Female preferred, W/D, cable, easy frwy access, (619) 312-0292;

Wanted:

- **Indian arrowheads/artifacts**, must be ancient & authentic, 619-222-8562;
- **Exercise bikes/treadmills**, adapted PE teacher looking for used, good cond. etc. for special PE prog., will pick up, 760-580-2780;

Other:

• **Buick Invitational Golf Tournament Ticket Offer**

Tickets are available to SDUSD employees at a reduced price through the sponsorship of the Century Club, Save Our Schools (SOS). All fundraising proceeds directly benefit the SDUSD Athletic Program. Single-day tickets are available at the reduced price of \$12.00, compared to the regular \$19.00 weekday rate and \$25.00 weekend rate. Tickets are available now through February 15, 2004 in the SDUSD Athletic Office, Education Center, Rm. 1008A, or by calling 619-725-7126. In addition to benefiting District Athletic Programs, tickets are a great value and make fantastic gifts for family and friends. Don't miss out on this opportunity to support the Athletic Program and view an exciting golf tournament!

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