

Point Loma Cluster Schools Meeting Minutes
Budget Presentation Community Forum
November 2, 2009

Power Point Presentation by Superintendent Bill Kowba, and SDUSD Chief District
Relations Officer, Bernie Rhinerson

“The K-12 Education Budget Crisis—Outlook for the 2010/11 School District Budget

**This PowerPoint is available for you to view in our digital toolbox labeled
“SDUSD Budget Crisis”**

Community Input:

Q=question or comment from community member

A= answer from Bill Kowba or Bernie Rhinerson unless otherwise noted

Q. Can we cut Ocile and VEEP transportation be cut since they are part of court ordered integration?

A. Maybe not. We are not sure yet.

How much is the fine we pay to the federal government when classes are over 20:1

A. No answer

Q. Were stimulus dollars funneled into inner city schools to get 15:1 rather than use it to keep all schools lower class size?

A. Stimulus dollars used to lower class size in low API schools and Title 1.

Q. Is it possible to refuse federal funds when it is tied to services we can not provide? The government makes us follows rules that they don't fund.

A. No. Federal government money is generally very restricted. The stimulus money was less restricted.

Q. Shocked to hear there may be an increase in salaries for next year. Why is this district afraid to reduce salaries. We are at a point that everyone needs to be willing to take a salary hit.

A. Cutting raises is an option. Board of education needs to hear your opinion.

Q. Could standardized tests be cut to reduce budget? All tests not required by federal government should be cut.

A. Not on the table yet. We are only in first stages of decision making

Q. Are you saying we could have 110 million on top of the 83 million cut?

A. Yes

Q. What are the increases expected for next year?

A. Utilities, Raises (2.5%), health insurance

Q. What else is covered in the “other” area (not people) in the graph

A. Liability insurance, paint, maintenance supplies, fuel

Q. What is Prop S?

A. New construction for schools. We can not sell enough construction bonds now so we are doing less construction in a longer period of time. We have so many rules about how money is earmarked that our hands are tied. We can not use that money by law for anything else but new construction.

Q. Who is monitoring the state's spending? I would not support teacher pay cuts. Could we sell the school property to fund schools?

A. The state legislature monitors state spending. We are thinking about selling some properties.

Q. Has there been any discussion about a parcel tax? (A voter approved tax that would go for schools)

A. Yes. There is research happening right now. We are figuring out how to tell the voters we would use it. Pass rate is 2/3.

Q. Will we consider shortening the school year?

A. Yes

Q. Is district funding PSAT testing?

A. Yes.

Q. Are charter school making similar cuts?

A. Charters have there own budgets and make their own budget cuts.

Q. Does the district have any plans on generating any revenue?

A. Yes, parcel tax and possibly advertising.

Q. Is it on the table that foundations are not allowed to fund certain things?

A. No

Q. Board of Education are directly influenced by our voices. Contact the board

Q. What is a definition of a furlough?

A. Unpaid days

Q. SDSU professors took pay cuts to save their colleagues jobs. They took them willingly in order to avoid layoffs.

Q. Are you looking at small schools closing?

A. Nobody is actively looking at closing small schools right now.

Q. Could we start our own lottery since the state lottery doesn't help.

A. State lottery gives only 2% to schools. They only fund things like books. It is not much help.

Q. Is the strength of the union preventing great ways to save money from happening?

A. The union presence is part of any school operating environment.

Q. 9000 union members and only 900 voted in last election. The union is not representing all the teachers. I believe we are accurate in thinking the union has too much strength

Q. Does district have a fundraising department/grant department?

A. Yes. We go after grants but we don't have a foundation to go after corporate dollars.

Q. Is there only one person doing that?

A. No there are many.

Q. Maybe going to the cluster foundations to get some funding. Not all clusters do that.

A. Yes. We are trying to go after business to help the district too.

Q. There is 20 million dollars to build a Central Library High School. Where is that money coming from?

A. Prop S, 10 million comes out of another property fund. It will not take any money away from our budget.

Q. Is splitting the district an option?

A. It has been several months since I have talked with Mr. De Beck. I don't have current information.

Q. A flat rate wage cut across all positions isn't fair to those at the lower salary levels.

A. We are trying to figure a way to make it fair. There are ways.

Q. ½ day kindergarten cut is one of the worst proposals out there.

A. That is just 1 option. 13 million dollars would be saved. Talk to the board about it.

Q. There doesn't seem to be any long term solutions. We are just barely saving a sinking ship.

A. We do expect to get out of the bad economy. We can undo any cuts that we make now when the economy recovers. We need to fix the way we run the government so that we can fix education funding. Republicans will not vote for any new revenues.

Q. Can other states share their budgets to show us what is working?

A. Many states are doing poorly like us, but some are doing better—mostly states that have more functional governments and/or more local education funding.

Q. Can bussing be eliminated?

A. No. By law we must transport special education and students from program improvement schools.

Q. Can choice and VEEP bussing be cut

A. Yes.

Q. Isn't VEEP bussing court mandated?

A. There are certain portions.

Q. How can we get the ideas we have talked about to be heard by the board?

A. From Christy Scadden: We will organize some ideas and then meet with John DeBeck. We will have some forum to get the opinions/suggestions from our community. We are not sure what that will look like but we will figure it out and inform you. Be sure to get our cluster eblast and visit our website to be updated

Q. Is there a spending freeze?

A. Bill Kowba: They have already implemented a targeting spending freeze as of last weeks school board meeting. There are many other things to be looked at.

Questions and answers have been summarized to reflect the main idea.