

05.20.20 Email to all Staff:

Colleagues,

**May Revise:** A few weeks ago I shared in a weekly update that school districts were advised to plan for a “best” case scenario of a 2% budget reduction with no COLA and a “worst” case scenario of a 10% budget reduction with no COLA. This past Thursday, Governor Newsom shared the May Revise where he presented a 10% budget reduction for the 2020-21 school year. We are estimating the reduction to be **\$14,234,000** to TUSD. This is devastating news to our district. Now that there is no further need to speculate on the size of the cut the district will be required to make, district cabinet will begin immediately to look for budget reductions. With the need to have a budget ready for adoption by our school board and approval by SJCOE, we have very little time to put all of this together. Because of the prior budget cuts over the last four years, I expect the vast majority of the reduction to be in personnel. With the need to adopt a budget for the next school year no later than our June 23 board meeting, I will look to have budget reductions ready for board approval at the June 9 board meeting. We have heard from the County Office of Education that the certificated lay-off date has been extended to August 15.

I am so sorry to have to share this news with you. After weeks of guessing about the size of the budget cut, we now know what we have to do and so we will move quickly to address this budget reduction. The next few weeks will be daunting as we move forward. Below is an article from the LA Times regarding the financial situation facing school districts.

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/newsletter/2020-05-18/california-schools-lose-big-gavin-newsom-budget-politics-newsletter-essential-politics>

**Cash Deferrals:** I have mentioned previously that Sacramento is going to defer some of our income to a later date. We have better information so this is what we know. Our June income of \$17, 155,246 is being deferred to July. What is likely is that our July income will then also be deferred. The district will use our reserve to cover expenses in June.

What is most disturbing is that for 2020-21, the state plans on deferring our April, May and June payments to a later date that they have not shared with us. The income for these three months is \$45,398, 249 or more than 25% of our entire budget. I have never seen anything like this in the past. As bad as the Great Recession was in 2008-09, the districts never had to deal with three straight months of cash deferrals. Our reserve totals about \$30 million so obviously we have a cash flow problem at the end of next year. I do not want to borrow money to pay our bills as the district would be charged interest for the loan which only makes the deficit worse. My goal will be for us sweep money from all available accounts to cover the deferrals and then hope that we get paid back pretty quickly as those funds will eventually be needed for their intended purposes. As I write this, I am not sure that this is possible but this will be what we try to do. Paying interest on a loan just makes our financial difficulties that much worse. I really want to call the governor and ask him if Caltrans or the CHP is being asked to cover their expenses for 25% of the year or is this just a burden placed on school districts. This maneuver by Sacramento is their attempt to get school districts to use their reserve funds or their ability to get a loan to subsidize other agencies in our state. So much for education being a priority!

**Charter School:** On June 1, the district will begin to accept applications for the Tracy Independent Study Charter School. The website is up and can be reached by going to the link below. In addition to her new duties as the Director of Student Services, Dr. Mary Petty will be the principal of the charter school. To date, there has been a lot of interest in the charter school once the webpage was posted. Mary will have her hands full in both positions so in these tough budget times, I really appreciate her taking on

this additional assignment. If you have any questions about the charter school, please reach out to Mary at [mpetty@tusd.net](mailto:mpetty@tusd.net)

<https://tracycharter.tracy.k12.ca.us>

**Week 5 of the District Distance Learning Education Plan Implementation:** Beginning Monday, May 18, 2020 the District began our fifth and final week of implementing the Distance Learning Education Plan for the 2019-2020 school year. PK-12 teachers were scheduled to pick-up weeks 3 and 4 and/or weeks 1 and 2 student work for grading on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. The District's Distance Learning Education Plan implementation this spring has been a tremendous undertaking by staff. We all recognize this is very complex to organize and deliver to students to continue their education to complete this school year. The District thanks all staff who have worked diligently to implement distance learning in the district and appreciate staff's commitment, dedication, and support as we have provided our students with their education during this unprecedented time. Friday, May 22, 2020 is the final day of the 2019-2020 school year. Teachers will be working on grading student assignments and assigning final grades for all students over the next days.

**Curriculum Scope and Sequence Revisions for 2020-2021 School Year:** The Professional Learning and Curriculum Team is currently working with teachers to revise the scope and sequence laid out in the Year-at-a-Glance for K-12 ELA, Math, and Pk-5 STEM/ELA. The team is revising the Year-at-a-Glance documents to prioritize the essential skills and concepts for the grade-level so that teachers can accelerate learning, and reteach and extend missing essential core skills throughout the school year. The PK-5 STEM Year-at-a-Glance documents will be finalized as a part of the STEM revision team work set to take place this summer. These revisions will support teachers in targeting potential learning gaps that students may have and will provide time for teachers to build relationships, routines, and a strong classroom culture. All updated documents will be uploaded to the staff portal under curriculum. Be on the lookout for email updates this summer. Questions? Contact Melissa Beattie, [mbeattie@tusd.net](mailto:mbeattie@tusd.net).

**2019-2020 Summer School:** The District is pleased to be able to provide a very limited Summer School program this summer, beginning June 1, 2020, during this unprecedented time. Below are the programs and timelines for each summer school program:

**ESY for grades PreK – 8** (June 1 – June 26) will be continuing to follow the distance learning model currently in place with an updated calendar to reflect packet distribution and collection dates. Students will be provided paper packets to support continued progress toward IEP goals.

**ESY and Credit Recovery for grades 9-12** (June 1 – July 2) will be utilizing access to the on-line curriculum through Cyber High/Edgenuity in a distance learning model. Students enrolled in this program will be provided a device and a hot spot to facilitate access to the curriculum.

**TYAP** (June 1 – July 2) will be continuing to follow the distance learning model currently in place with an updated calendar to reflect packet distribution and collection dates. Students will be provided paper packets and/or resources to support continued progress toward IEP goals.

**Adult School for grades 12** (June 1 – July 2) will be utilizing a distance learning model. Students will be provided paper packets to support continued progress toward completion of diploma requirements.

**High School Bridge** (June 1 – June 12) for selected incoming ninth graders will be utilizing a distance learning model. Students enrolled in this program will be provided a device and a hot spot to access the curriculum and program.

**California State Testing:** The California State Department of Education has waved state testing for the 2019-2020 school year due to the unprecedented circumstances surrounding coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

For the 2019-2020 school year the California Department of Education (CDE) is doing the following:

- Suspending all California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress System (CAASPP) testing including:
  - Smarter Balanced Assessment System (SBAC)
  - California Science Test
  - California Alternate Assessment for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics
  - California Alternate Assessment for Science
  - California Spanish Assessment
  - Grade Two Diagnostic Assessments
- Suspending Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) testing
- Suspending the Physical Fitness Test (PFT)

In addition, if a school is back in session, the expectation is that the Initial ELPAC will be administered to students for initial identification, as required by California *Education Code* Section 313(a). However, Senate Bill 117 extended the timeline to conduct the Initial ELPAC by 45 days. Local educational agencies should continue to assess newly enrolled students whose primary language is not English when they return to school.

**End-of-Year Activities Update:** Attached is the latest update on activities at our school sites.

**Distance Learning Tracy Educators Survey:** As promised, we have developed a survey that went out to teachers Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. We are pleased to share that we have had 295 teachers complete the survey up to today. We would greatly appreciate if you take the time to complete the survey if you haven't already by Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Feedback will be used to prepare for the reopening of schools in August and make refinement to Distance Learning Guidelines and supports in the future.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tusd2020pd>



**Updates:** I had mentioned several weeks ago that this would be my last District Update for the year. I have decided that there will be one more next week and then if something big happens I will communicate to you at that time. I trust that you have found the updates to be useful and informative. Although many times the update was filled with depressing news, I also hope that you saw some of the great work that your colleagues are doing as we moved through the spring.

**Finally,** the video below I found to be both emotional and haunting. The world is experiencing such changes and this video with scenes from all over really drives the point home that we are in this together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJViT8BKq9k>



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