

BALANCING THE BUDGET

Palo Alto Unified School District

November 10, 2009

THE PROBLEM

Structural Deficit of \$5.7 million for 2010-11

- ✘ This amount is before any additional cuts to state revenues beyond the \$4.4 million “fair share” announced in the spring
- ✘ This structural deficit is projected to \$8 million in 2011-12 and \$10 million in 2013-14
- ✘ This amount assumes no increase in health benefit costs, but does assume staffing for medium/high enrollment growth

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THE VALUES

- ✘ Maintain academic excellence
- ✘ Avoiding layoffs is a high priority
- ✘ Transparency and openness about our challenge
- ✘ Continued support and fidelity to the district's Strategic Plan
- ✘ Participation by all stakeholder groups
- ✘ Understanding of and dedication to what works educationally
- ✘ Optimism about ability to solve problem
- ✘ Long term fiscal health – no gimmicks
- ✘ Staffing levels that sustain program quality as we grow

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PIECES OF THE WORK IN NOVEMBER

- ✘ Budget discussions among PTA, PAPIE, school site communities, and District departments
- ✘ Completion of First Interim Budget Report (presented on December 8)
- ✘ Continued soft hiring freeze – this has already yielded savings
- ✘ Approval of negotiated agreements for Palo Alto Educators Association and California School Employees Association
- ✘ Multiple small steps already occurring (examples: food, pool heating, legal costs)
- ✘ Suggestions for balancing budget sent to balancedbudget@pausd.org

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UPCOMING REPORTS

- ✘ Parcel Tax - Poll
- ✘ Thoughts on Parcel Tax renewal – structure and amount – November 17
- ✘ First Interim Report for discussion (December 8) and approval (December 15)
- ✘ Continued updates at Board meetings