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May 20, 2010 Newsletter

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Barbara Clark (District C)

Ken Grein (District D)

Scott Kelley (District E)

Estela Gutierrez (District F)

Barbara McLaury (District G)

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BOARDCAST E-NEWSLETTER

Dear John Doe,

A Word from the Board President Estela Gutierrez



Facing a major loss in our operating budget and an uncertain economic future, the Board of Trustees held a public hearing on the district's 2010-2011 budget yesterday. During the meeting we Trustees received a proposed tentative budget on how to cut \$33 million from the district's budget. Unfortunately, late changes by the Nevada Department of Education have resulted in an updated "net property tax changes" and per pupil decreases of \$3.7 million of revenue, bringing the total deficit to nearly \$37 million.

Over the past months the district has been proactive in informing the community of the shortfall we are facing and the recommendations for closing the gap. No action was taken yesterday - we were there to listen and to ask questions - formal adoption of the 2010-2011 budget is set for the May 25 Board meeting.

Estela Gutierrez
President

School Improvement and Revitalization

The school district recently kicked off its most aggressive roster to date of repair/improvement projects and school

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revitalizations directly aimed at improving classroom learning environments, making local schools safer and upgrading older schools. An estimated \$33.5 million - allocated through the 2002 rollover bond and making use of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - will fund more than 100 projects this summer. Based on employment statistics from last summer's round of projects, this summer will provide employment opportunities for more than 450 local workers. That is good news for the local economy.

We are committed to giving every student and teacher the best learning environment possible. The projects range from the installation of Computer-Based Instruction labs at some schools to heating and cooling upgrades designed to improve student and teacher environmental comfort. All the projects take advantage of summer breaks and off-track schedules.

Strategic Plan Update

Our goal is an efficiently and effectively managed system that channels all its resources to graduating students who are fully prepared to be successful in college or in a highly skilled career. Our developing strategic plan is the result of months of thoughtful discussions by principals, teachers, parents, support staff and great input from the community. One of the most important elements of the plan is a pathway to keep students on track and our efforts and resources focused on supporting them. Underpinning this emphasis on student success is a broad support system with four elements; teacher and principal effectiveness, parent engagement and community partnerships, fiscal responsibility and effective operations and a school climate that values diversity and ensures a safe and healthy environment. Accountability and transparency will guide everything we do.

The Board of Trustees eagerly awaits the final plan. Never before has it been more important to be so clearly focused and smart about how we educate our children.
