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May 6, 2011 Newsletter

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BOARDCAST E-NEWSLETTER

Dear John Doe,

A Word from the Board President



With only about a month left in the regular session of the 2011 Nevada Legislature, my colleagues and I on the Board of Trustees are preparing to make very difficult budget decisions that will impact our children and schools in Washoe County. With anticipated losses from federal, state and local funding, WCSD is facing a possible \$75 million reduction for each of the next two fiscal years. However, we know that discussions in Carson City that could impact the final budget are ongoing.

Last week, Superintendent Heath Morrison announced his preliminary recommendations to begin addressing the potential budget gap. As members of the Board, including myself, listened to these proposals, the severity of the budget shortfall became clear. The Superintendent's proposals totaled about \$35 million in reductions, leaving the District still looking for ways to save the additional \$40 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

The governor and state lawmakers this week proposed restoring some funding to K-12 education. After the Economic Forum on Monday estimated higher revenue projections for the state than in December, Governor Brian Sandoval proposed putting \$240 million of the projected increased revenue toward K-12 education, which could mean about \$14 million for WCSD for each of the next two fiscal years. The next day state lawmakers on the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee voted to restore some

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funding to public schools as well.

At this point, the District is still determining what the impact of these proposals would mean to WCSD if they were enacted in the final budget. Even if these proposals become a reality, we would still be facing high levels of reductions that will impact our children and schools. While we wait for final decisions from Carson City, we will continue to prepare for the worst case scenario and to advocate for the best.

We are currently engaged in this process and that brings me to today. My colleagues and I highly value the feedback of all of the parents, employees and community members in Washoe County. During this last stretch of the session, we want to hear from you.

We began a series of five budget townhall meetings this week and tomorrow (Saturday, May 7) is the next meeting, which will be at Wooster High School beginning at 10:30 a.m.

If you are not able to join us tomorrow, I hope to see you at one of the other townhall meetings. Here are the other dates and locations:

- McQueen High School: Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- Reed High School: Thursday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- Hug High School: Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Barbara McLaury
Board President

Superintendent Proposes First Steps to Address the Budget Shortfall

At a news conference last week, Superintendent Dr. Heath Morrison provided an update on the WCSD's budget outlook for the next biennium. He also announced his preliminary proposals to begin addressing the shortfall. Dr. Morrison's proposals total about \$35 million and impact about 200 positions within the District. His recommendations also include deferring textbook increases for another year, maintaining a class size increase in grades 1-3 that was implemented last year and making cuts to Central Services and direct school support services. More detailed information about these proposals is available [here](#) on the district's

website.

Schools Prepare for Graduation Ceremonies

With just a little more than a month before students walk across the graduation stage to receive their high school diploma, WCSD schools are busy making their final preparations for the ceremonies. Graduation is one of the most exciting times for the Washoe County School District and Board of Trustees as everyone gets to watch the culmination of years of hard work of thousands of students. For a list of graduation dates and times, [click here](#).
