

Rainy Day Fund To Blunt Impact of Draconian Budget Cuts. Is it Enough?

On Friday, February 8th Mayor Gavin Newsom and Supervisor Tom Ammiano jointly announced their support for giving the SFUSD up to \$30 million from the city's Rainy Day Fund to offset the severe education budget cuts proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger. The fund, established in 2003 thanks to Ammiano, requires the city to save a certain percentage of its revenue during good economic times. It currently holds about \$122 million, 25% of which can go to schools.

"Thanks to the foresight of Supervisor Ammiano we may be granted a reprieve from the budget mess this year," says UESF President Dennis Kelly.

However, with the Governor demanding \$4.8 billion in education cuts and threatening to suspend Proposition 98, the Rainy Day Fund may simply delay debilitating local cuts. Furthermore, the Rainy Day Fund still must be approved by the full Board of Supervisors.

Up to 250 Layoff Notices May Be Sent Out

Superintendent Garcia has informed UESF that because the district may receive an estimated \$40 million less in state funding, the district is anticipating sending out up to 250 teacher and administrator layoff notices, and potentially cutting school site budgets by 6.5% next year. By law, these notices must be sent out by March 15th. Para layoffs would require a 45 day notice.

At press time Supervisor Ammiano was working with the district to find ways to avoid sending out the notices altogether. By law, the Rainy Day Fund can only be triggered if the district receives less inflation-adjusted per pupil funding from the state and if there would otherwise be significant teacher layoffs.

Because of the state fiscal crisis, however, the Board of Supervisors might be able to bypass that step. "We'll make every effort to ensure that teachers and paras don't have to face heartache potentially losing their jobs," says Ammiano.

In the event that layoff notices are sent out, UESF will make sure that all contractual rights are enforced. Senior Field Rep Eric Hall has been appointed to handle the teacher layoff hearings, which are tentatively scheduled for April 9th and 10th. Read, "Guide to Layoffs" on page 2 for more information. UESF Vice President for Paraprofessionals, Carolyn Samoa, will handle para layoffs.

Standing Up to Governor Schwarzenegger Once Again

In what was intended to be his "Year of Education," Governor Schwarzenegger has instead proposed \$4.8 billion in education cuts and the suspension of Proposition 98, which guarantees a minimum amount of school funding.

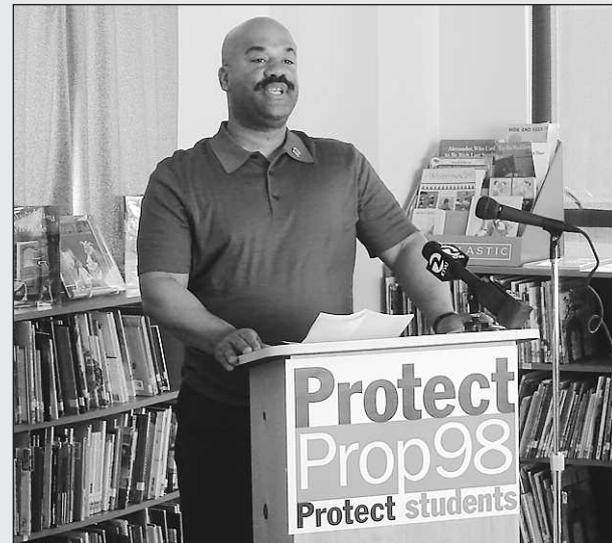
The proposed cuts come at a time when California is already lagging in support of its schools. On January

Reality Check?

On February 6, 2008 the New York Times reported that the Bush Administration has proposed a Pentagon budget of \$685 billion for next year, including \$170 billion to pay for the Iraq War.

10th, Education Week reported that California is now ranked 46th in the nation in school funding.

As expected, outrage from educators, parents, and school advocates has been swift and plentiful. The Education Coalition, comprised of the California Teachers Association, the California Federation of Teachers, the California state PTA, and other stakeholders, has crisscrossed the state detailing the devastating impact that the proposed cuts might have. Though the message that cuts are unacceptable has been successfully delivered, this is only the first step in the process.



San Francisco PTA Vice President Carl Barnes speaks out at an Education Coalition News Conference blasting Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed cuts.

As budget talks continue, further action will be necessary. Unfortunately, educators and parents from throughout the state may have to go to extraordinary lengths to simply maintain the status quo.

"Dust off those old picket signs and get ready to go to Sacramento," says UESF Executive Vice-President Linda Plack. "The 2005 battles with the Governor were only the beginning."

Budget Solutions: Look to Enhance Revenue

The Rainy Day Fund may blunt the worst of potential education cuts this year, but if state fiscal crisis continues next year and beyond, San Francisco schools will be in real danger. The need for a longer term solution to the state budget crisis is in order.

The California Federation of Teachers has taken the lead in calling for additional sources of revenue as a solution to the budget crisis, instead of just cuts. Among the proposals CFT has put forward is reinstating the vehicle license fee, and closing corporate tax loopholes. But convincing the state legislature and the governor to look for revenues instead of cuts will be an uphill battle.

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- Make sure the district has your proper hire date on file.
- If you are classified as a temporary or emergency teacher, and you believe this classification is not correct, contact UESF. A temporary teacher is hired on the basis of temporary funding, such as a grant, or to replace a regular teacher on leave. An emergency teacher is hired to teach a subject area for which he/she does not hold the appropriate credential. Please note, even though you don't have a clear credential that doesn't

necessarily mean that you are a temporary. You are temporary only if the job you are doing is a temporary job such as replacing a person who is absent or on leave. If you achieved probationary or permanent status and then were assigned to a temporary job you do not lose your original status.

- If circumstances have changed and you are no longer working in a temporary position, but you are still classified as such, please let UESF know.
- If you were hired on an emergency basis, but have subsequently received your credential, please also contact UESF.

To Review your personnel file, we suggest you set up an appointment with Human Resources at the district offices at 555 Franklin St. Send an email to Deborah Hirsh at hirshd@sfusd.edu or call 241-6101.

After a notice to layoff has been sent to you, if you have requested a hearing, a second document will be sent to you which is unfortunately called an "Accusation." That is the formal document which sets forth the basis for the hearing. The hearing is a mass hearing at which everyone has an opportunity to participate. Participation is discretionary, and as long as you have filed a

request for hearing and have authorized the union to present a defense on your behalf, your interests will be represented. UESF has retained the services of counsel who have many years of experience in these proceedings. In many cases both sides will stipulate to the facts which will raise defenses on your behalf.

If you do ultimately get laid off, you will have recall rights under the California Education Code. For tenured teachers you will be rehired in the first available open job for which you are qualified for a period of 39 months. For probationary teachers the time frame is 24 months.