

Don't Forget to Vote Today - May 19 Special Election

Budget Update

Twin Rivers USD

As you know through news reports throughout our community, nation, and world, we are experiencing the worst economic crisis in more than 60 years. This has been an extremely difficult and painful time for all of us at Twin Rivers as we have been forced to release many talented, amazing people who have done wonderful work for our students and schools. As of today, we have rescinded almost half of all release notices (about 150). Unfortunately, we received additional bad budget news from the State this week - additional reduction in this years (08-09) and next year's budget (09-10) and even deeper cuts depending on the outcome of today's election.

You can learn more about the current budget situation on the [School Services of California web site](#).

What we are doing

Additional Staff Reductions- According to the Education Code on unification, Twin Rivers cannot release classified staff or classified management this year or in 2009-2010. However, we offered an Early Retirement Program that has enticed 163 people into retirement. Thank you to our retirees! This allowed us to rescind 92 release notices.

Cost Reductions - A number of programs and events have been cancelled or revamped to save positions. For example, we will host a smaller health and wellness fair for employees in the fall in our own offices instead of the large back-to-school rally. We are also moving to electronic communication as often as possible to save paper, ink, and equipment resources. For more information about our budget and actions we are taking, visit our [special budget section of our web site](#).

Energy Conservation-We are launching a new energy conservation program that will save approximately \$360,000 each year.

Furlough Program- We are asking all employees (Classified, Management, Police, Certificated, Confidential) to consider taking several furlough days to allow us to save jobs this year.

Central Office Reorganization- We are analyzing the organization of our central office and will make many changes and reductions that will allow us to do more with less and not replace some of the positions being vacated this year.

Budget Clarification Section

There is a lot of discussion about our budget this year, and it's important that everyone is working with accurate information. We will try to send out more regular budget updates to address items as they come to our attention, so please email us with the things you're hearing about our expenses and your ideas for this section.

Those Blackberry Phones

The current Blackberry phones were obtained for .99 cents each. The only real cost for all cell phones currently used by district employees is the state tax on the regular cost of each unit (less than \$5). The monthly fee for each cell phone is subsidized by federal E-rate funding which pays from 86% to 90% of the service. The phones are an important part of our emergency preparedness plan-providing not only cellular communication, but e-mail and radio communication to our police force.

The \$50,000 Water Feature

We have received some calls about spending \$50,000 for a spectacular new water feature in our district office. The truth is we are planning a water feature design contest with students in the fall, materials will be contributed by business partners, and students will build the feature next year. While the cost will be minimal, we're sure our student art will look like a million!

New Office Taking Resources from Staffing

Many folks are concerned that moving our staff into a new centralized location is taking resources away from what could be spent on teaching staff. The new centralized office is funded through facility bonds (Measure G) approved by voters for the construction of a new office. The funds can only be used for the facility projects listed in the bond. Although \$20 million was set aside for the project, we are spending just over \$14 million to refurbish instead

of building new. In fact, purchasing and renovating space at McClellan represents a significant cost savings compared with building and furnishing a new office building (\$179.65 sq ft versus \$350 sq ft for new.) The remaining \$6 million will be used to address the East Natomas Education Complex (proposed HS in Natomas.)

The space originally used by the unifying districts will be put to good use for other program and/or education purposes. For example, the RLUSD office will provide additional space for full-day kindergarten, the DPHSD office is now an extra classroom, the GJUHSD office will allow the Twin Rivers Police Department and Adult Education Program additional space and possibly allow for community college access, and the NSSD office will allow our Student Services staff to have a presence in one of our most at-risk neighborhoods.

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