



1. Is the 2/10/09 Proposed 2009-10 Cut List in a prioritized order?

No, it is not in any particular order at this point. This list was created in order to facilitate a conversation among the Board Trustees about what may be cut for 2009-10. As we get further along in the process and receive concrete numbers from a state budget, the list will become more detailed and prioritized for the Board's consideration.

2. Is it being proposed that the IB Program be cut completely?

There has been no decision made on if or how the International Baccalaureate may be affected by the 2009-10 budget cuts. It could be completely cut, partially cut, restructured or left untouched.

3. Will school end early this year in order to save money from the budget?

No, school will not be ending early in 2009. While there was a lot of talk from Sacramento about the possibility of cutting the school year short to save money, it seems to be contrary to the goals of our educational programs and is also something that would have to be negotiated with all of our employee groups.

4. Does the proposed budget include any money from the federal stimulus bill?

The proposed SVUSD budget of 2/24/09 does not include any money from the federal stimulus bill. There is no consensus on when or how much of this money the district will see, therefore the county instructed districts to leave it out of their budgets for the time-being.

5. What constitutes the amount to be saved by cutting lacrosse and roller hockey? And why those sports?

The savings to the district by eliminating lacrosse and roller hockey include costs associated with renting roller hockey facilities, coaching stipends, painting lines on fields, and utility costs for the practice and game facilities. Lacrosse specifically was the last sport to be sanctioned by CIF and adopted by the SVUSD high school athletic programs. Roller hockey is not sanctioned by CIF at SVUSD and is a "club" sport.

6. Why is O'Neill Elementary again being considered for closure when the Board voted in January to keep it open for 2009-10?

Since the Board of Education made the decision on January 8, 2009 to keep O'Neill Elementary open for the 2009-10 school year, there have been many formal discussions by the Board about the seriousness of the budget crisis and the potential cuts and reductions that must be made. At each meeting, the issue of school closure was raised by the Board. As a result of discussion during the February 24, 2008 meeting, Board members subsequently requested that the decision to keep O'Neill Elementary open be reconsidered. Therefore, a resolution to close the school effective June 30 2009 will be placed on the March 10, 2009 Board agenda. Please note that the March 10, 2009 meeting will take place at Mission Viejo High School in the Performing Arts Theater with open session beginning at 6:15 p.m.

7. How much do employee salaries cost the district in the overall budget?

The salary cost for SVUSD employees is approximately \$188 million per year. That total can be broken down as follows:

- Certificated Employees - \$139,866,000
- Classified Employees - \$31,647,500
- Management Employees - \$16,537,000

8. In the proposed cut for transportation, what does “high need” mean? And will there be any boundary changes in order to ease some of the longer commutes if that cut is made?

The working definition of "high need" is distance and free/reduced lunch classification. The district has not yet set the distance as it must work to a specific budget cut. Regarding boundary changes, those will be addressed before the high school orientations in April.

9. What will be done with the O’Neill Elementary property and what does the district hope to gain in revenue from that space?

It is the intention of SVUSD to keep O’Neill as an asset that could be utilized by the district and the local community. In addition, there are certain programs within the district that operate using their own sources of funding that could lease some or part of the property. The district is only now beginning the process of examining its best option.

10. I have heard that all librarians are being cut, but I am not sure I can find that on the Budget Reduction List. Can you explain?

Item E on the Proposed Budget Reduction List mentions the cut to Secondary Librarians and Library Media Clerks (intermediate and high schools). The current proposal eliminates two high school Librarians and retains three secondary Library Clerks.

Item 4 on Categorical Program Reductions (page 2 of the list on-line) speaks to the elementary Library Media Clerks because they are primarily funded through SLIB (School and Library Improvement Block Grant). This reduction will result in the elimination of all but a few Library Media Clerks at the elementary level. The district and principals are working collaboratively to evaluate the impact on our libraries.