



Update 2/1/10

Below are some questions and suggestions that have been sent to budget.impact@svusd.org on SVUSD's Budget Impact website.

Q: Is it possible to shorten the school year in order to save money for the district? I think having a shorter school year will have the least negative effect on the students and their learning.

A: Yes, the district can shorten the school year without any penalty by the state. Students currently attend school for 180 days. California law allows for reducing the school year to 175 days without any consequence to the district. Through furloughs (days where students would not attend school and district staff would not work), there is a possibility of saving approximately \$900,000 per day. However, this item would need to be negotiated with the district employee groups prior to implementation.

Q: In order to lower the cost of wages/salaries, can the district offer an early retirement incentive to its employees?

A: SVUSD offered an early retirement incentive to teachers last year. It was made clear at that time it was only good for the 2008-2009 school year and could not be offered again in the near future.

Q: We see the correlation between 33,000 students and a deficit of \$33,000,000. Rather than put the onus of the budget problem on the backs of the employees, maybe it is time to seriously ask SVUSD families to contribute to their child's education.

A: The Saddleback Valley Education Foundation (SVEF) actually initiated a Save Our Saddleback campaign last year with a similar plea. Each school in the district received \$1,000 from SVEF this fall as a result. If you would like to donate to SVEF or offer services in an attempt to organize a fundraising drive, please see their website at <http://www.sveffoundation.org/>. On a similar note, state initiatives have been proposed that seek to lower the passage rate (55%) required for the implementation of a parcel tax.

Q: Is SVUSD going after the Race to the Top (RTTT) federal funds?

A: SVUSD has signed the Memorandum of Understanding to begin the process for a piece of the RTTT funding. It is still unclear if California will get any of the money from the federal gov-

ernment and, subsequently, the protocol districts will need to follow in order to receive some portion.

Q: Will the district be looking to close any schools this year in order to save money?

A: The Facility Advisory Committee, the volunteer group that represents all of the district schools whose charge is sometimes to recommend to the Board possible schools for closure, has been focussing on attendance grid to better prepare for the possibility of school closures in the future.