



# Keeping you posted...

8-18-10

As most of you find a few moments to sit down, catch your breath and review the first “Keeping You Posted” for the 2010-2011 School year, I want to start by congratulating you all on a successful start to the new school year. Unlike the 2009-2010 School year, we are starting this year with a bit less turmoil. However, there are a few challenges that we know we will be facing this year and a few challenges we probably don’t even know about at this time. As I did last year, I will do my best to use “Keeping You Posted” as a communication tool to keep all MUSD employees informed on challenges that we face here in the District.

#### Energy costs continue to be an issue.

We have budgeted over five million dollars for energy in Manteca Unified. Last year, thanks to the efforts of all our MUSD staff, **we avoided over 1 million dollars in cost.** This is a significant savings to our current and future budgets. I especially want to thank our classified, supervisory, administrative and management staff that worked through the summer months in what was at times less than ideal working conditions. While I hope we continue to avoid unnecessary energy costs, I also want to make sure that we continue to insure that our conservation efforts have limited or no impact on our instructional program here in Manteca Unified.

#### PG&E Peak Day Pricing.

I want to thank our staff at the comprehensive high schools for their response to PG&E calling a Peak Day Pricing (PDP) event on the first day of school. The Peak Day Pricing program is a program which affects any of our sites that use over 200,000 KWH per year of electricity. When PG&E calls one of these events, our electricity rate increases from \$.12 to \$1.20 per KWH. This increased cost could translate into hundreds of thousands of dollars that we do not have budgeted for energy. One response we can take is to significantly reduce our energy consumption during this time to keep the costs at a minimum. PG&E has several pricing options, some which include the PDP program and some that do not. As I believe that our response of significantly reducing energy consumption and support services during a PDP event affects the instructional program, we will be modifying how we respond to these events to insure that we minimize the impact on the instructional day and support services. **Our mandatory shut down process will not begin until after the instructional day has concluded.** I would, however, encourage all staff involved to diligently try to reduce energy consumption if it will not impact the instructional program or create unsafe learning or working conditions during PDP events between 2:00 p.m. and the release of school. Staff can expect to receive further direction and information from their site principals prior to our participation in another PDP event.

California has no budget but the Federal Government is sending money.

Manteca Unified adopted our budget in June. The State of California has yet to adopt a budget. The Federal Government has passed legislation that should result in our receiving some one-time money which will be used at the school site level. The rules and regulations for how this money is to be spent are still being defined and redefined. While the press is reporting that the Federal Government will be getting this money out within forty-five days, it is not clear when we will see the money here in Manteca Unified and/or how we will be allowed to allocate these resources. At this time we are in a wait and see holding pattern. Once I have more information, I will work to get that information out to our entire staff.

Our budget is having an impact on our schools.

Due to the lack of funding, we initially have classes with large numbers of students. I want to thank all teachers affected by this staffing. District staff is working hard to adjust class sizes down under the class maximums within two weeks. The numbers are checked on a daily basis and decisions are made as to how we can overflow students or add classes to address the oversized classes. While School site budgets have been reduced by 25% this year, we are not currently freezing the site Block Grants or MAA money and our cash flow analysis indicates that we do not believe we will need to implement a spending freeze this year. However, this could change if the State imposes additional reductions to our budget.

Doing business differently.

As we move forward through the next several years and work to restore student programs, employee compensation, work days, and resources at the school site, one area I am committed to keeping as lean as possible, fiscally speaking, is the District Office complex. We have restructured our District Administration/Management and these changes which resulted in reduced staffing and reduced cost will continue. We are also exploring ways of increasing revenue. Premier Community Credit Union has moved into the old District Administration building and they are renting the space from the District. The new space is beautiful. If you have a chance to visit on August 20, 2010, their Grand Opening, you can take advantage of free food and thousands of dollars in prizes. So why not check it out. I would like to wish all employees of MUSD the best of wishes on a successful 2010-2011 school year. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me with any questions or concerns you might have or just to share some of your successes or thoughts.

