

FROM ^TH _E TABLE

A PVFA NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN TO TEACHERS

PALOS VERDES FACULTY ASSOCIATION • 3551 VOYAGER STREET, SUITE 105 • TORRANCE, CA 90503 • (310) 921-2500

February 15, 2011

FEDERAL JOBS BILL FUNDS ADDED TO DISTRICT RESERVES

- In response to PVFA's Demand to Bargain for our share of the Federal Jobs Bill funds, the Bargaining Team met with PVPUSD on November 16th, December 3rd, and January 13th.
- PVFA agreed to make cuts last spring in order to save jobs and maintain class ratios. We did this with the assurance those restorative funds like the Federal Jobs Bill would be used by the District to reinstate instructional minutes for our students as well as pay for bargaining unit members.
- When the District was awarded 2.25 million dollars from the Federal Jobs Bill, the bargaining team was hopeful that some of the instructional minutes cut from the calendar would be restored.
- In spite of the fact that PVFA made the proposal for Ed Jobs funds in November, the district cited the Governor's January 10th proposed budget as the rationale for its formal response to PVFA:

"The District is unwilling to commit to increasing expenditures as PVFA has proposed for 2010-2011."

- PVFA is disappointed in the District's decision to once again continually and unnecessarily increase reserve funds.

Thank you to all PVFA members who responded to PVFA's "Call to Action" by attending the January 27th Board Meeting. The PVFA talking points can be found on the back of this paper.

Your PVFA Bargaining Team,

Renae Roberts, Chair
Kathy Santarosa
Kathleen Sullivan
Anne Keller
Tim Coleman
Sandra Goins, SBUT Executive Director

January 27, 2011 PVFA School Board Presentation

We've come out tonight to voice our position to **you**, the Governing Board, because we have concerns about the District's ability to maintain the high quality program that the community has come to expect year after year.

Palos Verdes Faculty Association is in agreement with the District that it is in everyone's best interest to maintain a 3% reserve. We have not advocated dipping below that mark even though it was permissible to do so last year...and we are not asking for you to dip into the nearly **13%** in reserves that the District has currently.

While we felt very strongly that cuts to the school year and to our teaching and support staff were not necessary, we believed it was more important at the time to compromise as we wanted the students, their families, and ours to be able to move forward with scheduling their own plans. PVFA felt **then**, and it is our position **now**, that student days should not have been cut.

Obviously, cutting teacher contact time cuts the amount of material that can be covered with students. In this age of ever increasing standards and academic rigor, students are being asked to **learn** more and more, with less and less instruction from their teachers.

In good faith, we agreed to cut instructional minutes last year with the hope that there would be some actions taken on the State or Federal level that would allow that time to be restored. **Actions were taken. Restoration was made possible.**

The Federal Government intervened to restore jobs, school days and benefits. Obviously, the Ed Jobs Bill was designed to save education jobs and **our members need and want the salary schedule to be restored.** January 1st we saw a dramatic reduction in pay due to the increase in health insurance premiums. Many have had hundreds of dollars taken from their pay.

We care very deeply about the students that we teach and the community in which we spend most of our waking hours. The students of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District are provided with a **top notch education.** Our schools are ranked among the top in the **Nation.** The educators here do a fantastic job providing **rigorous, interesting, differentiated learning** opportunities and memorable school experiences for all of our students.

Our dedication to our students is evident in the consistently high level of achievement. While many districts are suffering declining enrollment, ours continues to grow-a testament to the quality of education in our district. **We make that happen.**

One hundred eighty (180) days of instruction cannot be compressed into 176 days. We are faced with the dilemma of what to omit from our curriculum in order to comply with a shortened academic year. We shouldn't have to do this now that the District has received over **\$2 million** to restore our school year.

So we stand before you tonight to urge you use the **\$2.2 million** to restore the instructional time for our students and to make the commensurate adjustment to our salary schedules. We need every bit of time we can get with students to continue to glean the high levels of performance from our students. We also want to see the faculty continue to be able to meet their commitments to **their own families.**

The Governor has released his Budget Proposal and has said no more cuts to K-12 education.

While we acknowledge this is the first of several steps in the budget process, it's clear that there is support for schools at the highest levels of government and a strong message is being sent. **For the sake of our students and our families, use the Ed Jobs dollars as they were intended.**