

Subject: RE: Update on Reductions

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 4:56:32 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Misty Key

To: Eva Lueck, Michael Fine

CC: Cesar Morales, Dannielle Brook

Agree, it will be nice for all of us to be together to inform the Board of our advice directly. Eva, you are nice and very knowledgeable. You are not the issue. You are a saint for showing up daily for the Ojai students and community!



From: Eva Lueck <evalueck@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:23 PM

To: Michael Fine <mfine@fcmat.org>

Cc: Misty Key <MKey@vcoe.org>; Cesar Morales <CeMorales@vcoe.org>; Dannielle Brook <DBrook@vcoe.org>

Subject: Re: Update on Reductions

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Mike, I am excited to hear you will be there...thank you!!! It is so frustrating to not be considered part of the team working towards resolution on fiscal issues...I am the outsider that should not be spoken to - and I always thought I was nice. It will be good to see you!

Best always, Eva

On Thu, Feb 16, 2023 at 12:21 PM Michael Fine <mfine@fcmat.org> wrote:

Got it. Add to this the incomplete audit!

I will wear my body armor.

From: Misty Key <MKey@vcoe.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:45 AM

To: Michael Fine <mfine@fcmat.org>; Eva Lueck <evalueck@gmail.com>; Cesar Morales <CeMorales@vcoe.org>; Dannielle Brook <DBrook@vcoe.org>

Subject: RE: Update on Reductions

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If you have any questions please submit a ticket to support@fcmat.org

Appreciate your attention to detail. Yes, they have a previously agreed upon increase in class size ratios in the contract that they have not been utilizing. Good reminder on the TK!

We have a standing “budget update” item on the district board agendas and Eva is making sure it will be there for this special board meeting. With our separate item, there should not be a time limit.

Yes, it is time for you to be there with us. The cuts below are starting to get there and yet, the GL and budget is still full of errors and hard to decipher the accuracy. What I have to keep reminding myself is that this district projected an adequate reserve and fiscal solvency in May 2022 and ran out of unrestricted including the reserves, one month later. The unknown of the messy ledger is the scariest. They also don't have adequate fiscal staff right now and have denied the VCOE fiscal expert from helping with 2nd interim. We have been relegated to only helping with the cash flow ☹

This board agenda on Feb 21st, we are told will only include classified layoffs. That is not enough. We have been advising to get the board's action on certificated now as well, and the district is not moving up the urgency of the overall reductions actions. The combination of inaccurate information, no 21/22 audit (auditor tells us they haven't received all the info they need), and lack of urgency and cooperation is the issue.

Best case scenario is we are there to support the boards difficult action and be encouraging – worst case scenario, is we are there to lay out the details of the severity of the solvency and what will happen next.

Even though the Board has taken action to close two elementary schools and combine the middle school with the high school for a 7-12 campus, the community is not accepting the 7-12 concept. They might have to implement the secondary school consolidation in the future and just focus on closing two elementary schools.

There are only 3 ½ weeks left until March 15. All hands on deck are needed to help them achieve solvency. We are thankful for your help Mike!



Misty

From: Michael Fine <mfine@fcmat.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 10:54 AM

To: Misty Key <MKey@vcoe.org>; Eva Lueck <evalueck@gmail.com>; Cesar Morales <CeMorales@vcoe.org>; Dannielle Brook <DBrook@vcoe.org>

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Thank you for including me. I see the mention to change 24:1, clearly that has to be negotiated, plus remember that TK can not be negotiated. It is 12:2 by statute.

We need to strategize about Tuesday. Is there an agenda item we are speaking to and limited to the normal 2-3 minute speaker's time? Or is there a separate COE report on the agenda that we would not be limited to? Also, if they are making the progress requested, I'll ask again is this the right time to include me? I've adjusted my calendar and flights so I'm all set in being there, but I want to make sure it's the right time. Sounds like from Eva that our collective attendance will help ensure they follow through and act.

Mike

From: Misty Key <MKey@vcoe.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 10:04 AM

To: Eva Lueck <evalueck@gmail.com>; Cesar Morales <CeMorales@vcoe.org>; Michael Fine <mfine@fcmat.org>; Dannielle Brook <DBrook@vcoe.org>

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Thank you Eva! This is a wonderful list of additional reductions in the works. We are almost to the extent of dollar reductions needed. As long as all of this is properly presented in a format and figures that can be validated, the Board meeting on Feb 21st can be filled with supportive messaging and encouragement to the Board to make these reductions.

I am including Mike so he can get up to speed on the details with the district. And Danni! Danni and team VCOE are digging in the districts GL and budget model to share with them the edits needed for correcting errors.



Misty

From: Eva Lueck <evalueck@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2023 9:27 AM

To: Cesar Morales <CeMorales@vcoe.org>; Misty Key <MKey@vcoe.org>

Subject: Update on Reductions

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Yesterday I met with Tiffany, Sherrill, Angie to review personnel reductions. At this point the classified reductions are being finalized for a Board action next Tuesday. AALR is doing the Resolution.

The current reductions are: 2 elementary office managers approx. \$134,000.; elimination of the 2 campus supervisors (COVID funding), .7 Health Care Technician \$40,000; eliminate elementary library techs and middle school approx \$70,000; ASB & clerical ...maybe \$45,000....this total is approx. \$289,000.

There are also some hourly folks, noon aides, and the potential of 2 bilingual aides. The classified is not finalized yet but this is the current plan being put forth.

Management: Reduction of 3 principles - Approx. \$430,000
1 Counselor: \$131,000

Teachers are not finalized but their current calculations for elementary are 7 elementary if the staffing ratio increases from 24:1 to 31:1if 24:1 is maintained it would be a reduction of 3 elementary teachers rather than 7.

Secondary a reduction of 7.2 fte (not finalized...I don't think it will be this many)
Special Ed potential reduction of 1 fte (SDC)

That is the conversation so far. I have asked for the enrollment numbers they are using for each grade level and calcs. I have also asked to clarify if they are including health insurance and all the benefits in their costing out of positions...and what is their est savings per teacher fte

So, I think they are at \$850,000 (289,000+430,000+131,000) plus 11.2 fte (no increase in elem ratio) would be approx \$1,120,000.

They are using \$100,000 per teaching fte ...some of the classified cost numbers seem to include percentage fringe benefits...others do not....I don't think health insurance savings are included in the classified savings.....I would say they are conservative in their savings dollar amount.

They are also making shifts to between Unrestricted and Restricted, I do not have that information yet. Additionally, they are doing other budget reductions...I do not have that information yet.

I really think it is good that both of you and Mike Fine are coming on Tuesday. They will be finalizing their usage of sites for next year (and there may be push back on this one), and also approving classified. I am hopeful they will discuss teacher reduction numbers but that is not clear yet. This meeting is critical to the actions on March 8th.

I believe they are trying to have a Fiscal Committee meeting on Monday, I will keep you posted and will attend if they do schedule something.

I am working from home for another hour or so and then heading into the District.

Best, Eva

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