

Budget - FAQs
February 5, 2009



1. **I'm aware of the retirement funding for the former employees. I'm also aware of the obligation to pay them earned benefits. But I believe we have more of an obligation to our children. Is it possible to cut past employee benefits, at least for now?**
 - a. The Board cannot unilaterally make that decision. Reductions in retiree benefits are negotiable. Any cuts would reflect a savings to the general fund.
2. **Is it possible to have some type of fund raising for any particular school in OUSD?**
 - a. Parent groups are encouraged to work with principals to provide additional funds to support the educational mission of the school.
3. **I own my own company. It's in door hardware/door & frame repair and replace. Can I donate my own time and some supplies to help cut down on maintenance costs?**
 - a. Parents with skills such as these are encouraged to coordinate with the principals to provide improvements at their respective schools. Principals will coordinate donations with the maintenance department.
4. **Can we, as concerned parents, donate needed school supplies to a school? Can we ask what supplies are needed?**
 - a. Current Board Policy does not allow school staff to solicit parent donations. However, parents may coordinate with teachers and principals for items they might wish to donate.
5. **Can the OUSD find sponsors to help raise funds for our schools?**
 - a. OUSD currently applies for and receives many grants. Additional funding opportunities will continue to be explored.
6. **How much does a board member receive? How much is the honorarium?**
 - a. Board members receive compensation of \$750.00 per month (Ed Code 35120), and are eligible to receive the same health and welfare benefits as employees.
7. **If the closure of the four proposed schools is approved, what is the actual savings, since these students will now have to be bused to the new school sites?**
 - a. This information was presented at the February 5, 2009 *Work/Study Session*, slide number 16. Totals below include busing costs.

Consolidate Small Schools:

Imperial ES (\$944/student)	\$342,000/yr.
Panorama ES (\$809/student)	\$268,000/yr.
Riverdale ES (\$1,146/student)	\$345,000/yr.
Silverado ES (\$2,712/student)	\$198,000/yr.

- 8. If all schools under 400 students are being considered, wouldn't Chapman Hills be included?**
 - a. Chapman Hills was included in the study. The Chapman Hills current enrollment is 384 students. By adding the 73 students from Silverado, the new Chapman Hills enrollment would be 457 students.
- 9. If Imperial is closed, will I get to choose which school we will be able to attend?**
 - a. Please remember, no decision has been made to close any schools. In an effort to keep as many students together with classmates as possible, Imperial students will be assigned to two elementary schools. Open enrollment opportunities are available to all students in the district.
- 10. Why wouldn't parents from Panorama, Imperial, and Riverdale have the choice to transfer to Silverado, and then this would give us another year to establish our school "Silverado" as a charter/magnet school and could then support yourself.**
 - a. Parents have always had open enrollment opportunities to attend all district schools, including Silverado.
- 11. As a former managed health care executive, I'm curious as to when there last was a benefit reduction or contribution increase? Are agencies pushed by favorable co-pays as well as positive reinforcement for mail order versus pharmacy? Small changes in schedule of benefits could be more favorable than other negotiated items that cause a negative effect on children.**
 - a. The district negotiates employee health benefits annually. The most recent increase in co-pays occurred this year.
- 12. If Silverado needs more students to not operate at a loss, why are families who call the District that are in need of transferring out of their present school not referred to Silverado?**
 - a. Parents have always had open enrollment opportunities to attend all district schools, including Silverado.
- 13. Explain why small schools are being closed.**
 - a. No decisions to close schools have been made. With a projected budget deficit over the next two years of over \$50 million, the district must explore all options.