

SJPEC UPDATES FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Members,

In January, Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled his second proposed State Budget for the upcoming 2020-2021 fiscal year. While all the economic indicators seem to point in a positive direction, the Governor has taken on a very conservative approach to his new budget proposal, very much like last year and the previous eight years under Governor Brown. Once again the Budget reflects Governor Newsom's interest in attacking several major issues in the State, but does not address the issue of the increased demands for resources within school districts. The COLA only environment does not allow school districts to improve the teaching and learning experience, better compensation, smaller class size or many other issues that school districts face today.

Below is an excerpt from School Services of California Budget Workshop held on January 15, 2020.

Last year, Governor Newsom stirred excitement in the education community, which had been prophesying the effects of mounting cost pressures on its ability to continue the promise of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), when he proposed to help reduce employer pension liability. He stoked enthusiasm of charter school reform-seekers whose pursuits were sobered by a previous governor unwilling to entertain even a modest change. He acknowledged and understood the need to find innovative ways of addressing California's teacher crisis, particularly in higher-need communities. And finally, he demonstrated a keen awareness of the urgency to address the needs of our most vulnerable students –

those who confront extra challenges to learning due to disabilities, or by the toxic exposure

to persistent poverty, or by the lack of access to critical early learning opportunities. These were things the education community eagerly embraced from a Governor who showed he was listening.

In some important ways, Governor Newsom is holding firm to his espoused values of taking on the inequalities that pervade the world's "capital of innovation" and its fifth largest economy by proposing investments aimed at eradicating systemic barriers that millions of families and students face when pursuing prosperous futures. His commitment to improving opportunities for all stitches his 2020-2021 education budget together. He proposes greater transparency around the resources that improve

educational equity; he infuses over \$1 billion across a number of programs that combined are designed to tackle the system's historical and stubborn achievement gap; and he remains committed to the principles that ushered in a finance model that spurs local innovations tailored to the needs of students and communities.

While we embrace Governor Newsom's commitment to prudence and a more just educational system, we must acknowledge that his 2020-2021 Budget – though rife with bold initiatives – is bound to create challenges for us as we grapple with increased demands for resources that improve the teaching and learning experience such as better compensation, smaller class sizes, and greater investments in student support staff and programs. As the full implementation of the LCFF drew closer and at a faster-than-anticipated pace, we at SSC seemed to be the proverbial uninvited guest at an exuberant party, sounding the alarms of plateauing funding that would usher in a cost-of-

living adjustment (COLA) – only environment.

What appeared to be a figment of our imagination is now the reality in Governor Newsom's 2020-2021 education budget. Beyond the COLA to the LCFF and a promising start to reforming how we resource and serve students with disabilities, the budget provides little discretion to continue and expand local innovations. And while we appreciate the intention behind the one-time investments Governor Newsom proposes this year, the resources they encumber divert the ability of our school agencies to strengthen and improve core educational programs that serve all students and that improve the teaching and learning environment across California's broad and diverse education system. The absence

of a strong and rigorous core program presents challenges for every student, every teacher, and every administrator. Augmenting a core system that is vulnerable to fiscal shocks with one-time, targeted investments –

however just and bold – causes us pause.

As we prepare to confront tomorrow's challenges—some that we know and others that we have not yet imagined—it is perhaps more important than ever to ensure that local educational leaders are equipped with the resources and tools that need not only to maintain the commitments they made to their students, their families, and their communities, but to build a strong foundation for a prosperous future for all.

Charley Berger
Executive Director

SJPEC EXECUTIVE BOARD

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We want to hear from you!
Feel free to contact us with questions or concerns.
Member support is also available if you need representation.

NEWS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy mid school year to all! It sure has been a fun-filled year so far. We've done a lot this year as a coalition: we've participated in a successful negotiation process, we continue to support members in their professional growth requests, we've supported students and surrounding communities through construction all the while being focused on instruction and the day to day workings of the sites that we support! I have learned so much not only from these experiences but from continuing to attend district-sponsored meetings and taking advantage of opportunities to network and learn from all of you. While Richard Judge will step into the President roll next year (yea Richard!), I look forward to continuing to serve SJPEC in the Past President roll. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of the other exec board members if you have any questions or need any support.

Suzanne Bender

President

REP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Damon Smith

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Don't forget to take advantage of the \$1,000 for Professional Development! The forms are attached to the email. Please consider using these funds prior to site funds!

Negotiations Update

Last year SJPEC signed a two- year contract with the District. The contract calls for a 2% one -time –only payment for this year (not added to the salary schedule) and a reopener for salary and benefits for the 2020-2021 school year. The 2% one-time payment will be paid to employees in February 2020. We will begin this Spring to negotiate next year's salary and benefit package. Our reopeners for the entire contract will take place in the Spring of 2021.