



NEWS RELEASE

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School Board hears plan for balanced budget

None of the district's 850 continuing-contract teachers to lose job; cost-saving measures found elsewhere

May 13, 2009—Renton School Board members at tonight's study session heard the district's proposal for a balanced budget for the 2009-2010 school year. The budget includes cuts of more than \$5.3 million, made necessary by the state's elimination of funding from Initiative 728, the voter-approved measure to reduce class size.

The Board will formally adopt the budget at a meeting in August.

Renton's proposed budget for next year will be balanced without a teacher reduction in force (RIF) and layoffs. Due to other program cuts, retirements, resignations and other attrition, no continuing-contract teachers will lose their job.

Renton's proposed budget for next year will be balanced without a continuing-contract teacher reduction in force (RIF) and layoffs.

72 teachers hired this year on one-year leave-replacement contracts—those hired, for instance, to fill in for a teacher on leave—will not be offered an additional one-year contract for next school year.

43 teachers are being displaced due to the loss of the class-size funding, and will, as a result, be in a different assignment next year.

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Although we worked hard, and were successful, in avoiding cuts to continuing-contract teachers, the state's budget cuts for Renton are devastating. The loss of some highly-capable first-year teachers, along with necessary cuts to programs, negatively impacts our efforts to increase student achievement.”

—Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel
Superintendent

While the district is proposing a budget that avoids layoffs for these teachers, the state cut to education is still destructive. Seventy-two educators hired this year on one-year leave-replacement contracts—those hired, for instance, to fill in for a teacher on leave—will not be offered an additional one-year contract for next school year. The district will work diligently over the next few months to find positions for these very capable educators to become a permanent part of Renton.

With the loss of I-728 funding, some teaching assignments will change. Forty-three teachers are being displaced due to the loss of the class-size funding measure, and will, as a result, be in a different assignment next year.

Cost-saving measures proposed to the Board include eliminating or reducing non-teaching positions; postponement of curriculum adoptions; consolidating bus routes for athletics; reduction to the amount allocated to the fund balance; eliminating athletic “C” teams; and, eliminating fifth-grade band/orchestra. (*See a more complete list below.*)

Additionally, the district's Leadership Team—made up of district administrators—is offering a furlough plan of 3-to-5-day reductions to personal contracts in an effort to generate about \$80,000 towards the “Saving Teachers” campaign.

Areas of reduction proposed to the School Board

<p>Staffing Adjustments - \$2,509,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary/Secondary • I-728 Generalists • Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) • Professional Development Coaches • A Librarian position <p>Staffing Reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate 2 Support Staff positions • Eliminate Long-Term Substitute position 	<p>Program Eliminations - \$410,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary (5th-grade) Band/Orchestra • Secondary Athletic Coordinators • High School Athletics “C” Team <p>Program Adjustment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPAC Subsidy reduction • Fee Increase (Lunch prices, .25 cents)
<p>Program Stipends Reduction - \$190,000 <i>(Additional hours)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary Music • Elementary Music • Nursing • TOSA Extra Hours • Librarian Extra Days 	<p>Additional cuts - \$1,482,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum – Delay Adoption (one-year delay on adoptions of World Geography; High School Language Arts; AP English; others) • Delayed Honey Dew Opening • Skyward Conversion • Leadership Team Furlough
<p>Transportation - \$350,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Charter Buses • Athletic Route Matching • Work Programs Transition • NCLB Transportation • Eliminate Support Staff position 	<p>Fund Balance Restoration Plan- Adjustment to plan- \$390,000</p> <p>District Travel Procedures Out of district travel involving overnight stay will not be allowed unless the training is funded and required by grant provider.</p>