



MASPAC

MASON'S PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Larry Mason

NOVEMBER 2008

District D

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

- 11/01/08.....American Indian Heritage Month
- 11/04/08.....Staff Development Day-No School
- 11/04/08.....Election Day
- 11/10-11/11/08..Veterans Day Observance-No School
- 11/16-11/22/08..American Education Week
- 11/20/08..... National Parental Involvement Day
- 11/27/08.....Thanksgiving Day-No School
- 11/28/08..... Family Day-No School

For a complete list of calendar dates access
<http://ccsd.net/news/calendar/pdf/Important%20Dates%2008-09%203.pdf>

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

- November 6, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
- November 20, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

- November 5, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
(Work Session)
- November 18, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
(Facilities Update)

The above Board meetings will be held at the Edward A. Greer Education Center Board Room
 2832 E. Flamingo Road

Access the District's website at www.ccsd.net

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

- November 12, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

The above Board meeting will be held at the Administrative Center, Conference Room 466
 5100 W. Sahara Avenue

Access the District's website at www.ccsd.net

A huge thank you to all who attended the MASPAC (Mason's Parent Advisory Committee) in October and to Valley High School Principal Ron Montoya and his staff for their pleasant and generous hosting of the group.

Our next MASPAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 26, 2008, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at Hollingsworth Elementary School, Cafeteria, 1776 East Ogden Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101, telephone number 799-1660. This will be a joint meeting with Hollingsworth Elementary School's parent meeting. Priscilla Rocha, Director of Adult English Language Acquisition Services, Education Services Division, will be the guest speaker. She will come and provide information regarding the Adult English Language Acquisition Services that are available in the Clark County School District.

Congratulations

Terri Janison, Linda E. Young, Deanna Wright, and Chris Garvey

Terri Janison will continue to serve as a trustee for District E
 Linda E. Young, board member-elect, will serve as District C trustee
 Deanna Wright, board member-elect, will serve as District A trustee
 Chris Garvey, board member-elect, will serve as District B trustee

Message from David Waterhouse, Elected Student Body President of the College of Southern Nevada (CSN)

Greetings,

My name is David Waterhouse. I am the elected Student Body President of CSN. The Student Body Presidents of all higher-education institutions, including myself, have embarked on a student education and awareness project to help battle the budget cuts to education. As part of this project, I am hoping to rally K-12 students and parents along with us for a massive "Save Nevada Students" rally which will be held on January 22nd, 2009, in front of the UNLV Student Union building. We will be distributing pamphlets to educate students and faculty at CSN, UNLV, and NSC. We will be directing them to our website, <http://savenevadastudents.org/> (work in progress), which will have further information on the budget cuts as well as up-to-date information on our rally. I strongly urge members of the K-12 system to step up and write letters to their respective state legislators as well as attend our rally. We hope to have students, parents, faculty, administrators, union leaders, and local community and business leaders speak at the rally on the importance of education to our economy and the future of Nevada. For additional info please contact me at:

david.waterhouse@csn.edu
<http://www.csn.edu/ascsn>
<http://savenevadastudents.org/>
 Office Phone: (702) 651-4380

Sincerely,
 David Waterhouse, ASCSN President

An Update on Mandated Budget Cuts

The following excerpt related to mandated budget cuts was sent to all employees on October 22 from Superintendent Walt Rulffes. It contains some valuable information on specific cuts made to date and the future effects of further cuts on education:

... At this point, we have already cut approximately \$133 million from our budget. While we are hopeful that no additional reductions will be requested for the *current* school year, we cannot be certain of that if state revenues continue to fall short of projections.

The coming biennium is shaping up to be even more bad news... When the Nevada Legislature convenes in 2009, from February through May, they will be establishing the budget for the two fiscal years: July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, and July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011... And while we will not know the outcome of legislative funding until next June, we will not give up the fight for the Legislature to protect public education.

This state timeline means the District must plan its budget for 2009-2010 under unknown conditions. On the basis of economic projections for the next several years, the District has been asked to **cut another \$120 million from our budget for each of our next two school years, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.** As schools and departments struggle with this mandate, it is apparent that all the "easy" cuts have already been made and that further budget reductions are going to impact CCSD's workforce in the next biennium.

In anticipation of these future cuts and in order to avoid layoffs to the greatest extent possible, many departments and schools are not filling vacancies that currently exist and may leave positions unfilled if vacancies occur during the present school year... This helps prevent the unfortunate circumstance of bringing new employees into the District only to dismiss them within a year.

Some job categories may also be completely eliminated. Employees in these positions would be eligible to fill other vacancies in the District, according to the process prescribed in the negotiated agreements...

Please know that at this point, no



Visit us on the web for more information on the budget cuts, a video with the latest updates and details on upcoming public forums.

www.ccsd.net

decisions have been made about which job categories may be eliminated... A great deal of school and public input is being solicited on this matter.

Following is the sequence of cuts to reach the \$120 million:

- The first cuts are in administrative budgets, 12 percent – \$32 million.**
- The Board is being asked to use one-half of the District's fund balance – \$22 million.**
- Districtwide cuts are next – \$9 million.**
- Ultimately, schools and departments must also be asked to reduce their budgets. Each school is providing input on how to deal with a 3.5 percent cut that will total \$57 million.**

It is [the Superintendent's] intent, and the Board's, to preserve to the greatest extent possible the classroom function and services that directly impact students. All of the District's support services are important and necessary, but schools and classrooms remain at the heart of our mission.

Rest assured that even as we are required to go through this difficult process of identifying cuts, we are also intent on promoting public education and Nevada students as the highest priority for state funding...

In January 2008, the Board of School Trustees passed a resolution that outlines the Board's position and commitment to the continued quality of student education in Clark County. While the details of that resolution may have changed, the purpose still stands firm. Providing CCSD students with a quality education and assisting them in preparation for a successful future remains a priority for the CCSD Board of School Trustees.

Learn more about the impending cuts and view a video with further details at www.ccsd.net. Share your thoughts on the cuts at one of several public input meetings. Details are listed on the first page of this newsletter.

American Education Week 2008

Celebrate with us – November 17-21

In 1921, the National Education Association representatives called for one week each year to be designated for a spotlight on public education. In its resolution, the NEA called for: "An educational week ... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs." And thus, American Education Week was born.

The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921. It has been a national tradition ever since.

The CCSD has a long history of celebrating American Education Week. This year the theme locally is "Keep Your Eye on the CAP." Events will include the annual **National Merit Scholarship Semi-finalist Awards Ceremony** where more than 30 students will be spotlighted, **Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony**, the first **CCSD AEW Art Gallery Open House**, and individual events at local schools.

For a complete list of CCSD AEW celebrations, visit CCSD.net. The information will be posted on November 17. You may also call your local school to find about any events happening there.

Have a Happy American Education Week this month!



I like to think that the greatest success of any life is that moment when a teacher touches a child's heart and it is never again the same... Everything America is or ever hopes to be depends upon what happens in our schools and classrooms."

--Frosty Troy, editor Oklahoma Observer