



DISTRICT G NEWSLETTER



Sheila Moulton

NOVEMBER 2008

District G

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2008 SCHOOL YEAR

- 11/01/08.....American Indian Heritage Month
- 11/02/08.....Daylight Saving Time ends
- 11/04/08.....Districtwide Staff Development Day
- 11/04/08.....Election Day
- 11/10-11/11/08...Veterans Day Observance
- 11/16-11/22/08...American Education Week
- 11/20/08.....National Parental Involvement Day
- 11/27/08.....Thanksgiving Day

[Important Dates 07-08.pdf](#)

REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS:

November 6, 2008 4:00 p.m.

November 20, 2008 4:00 p.m.

The above Board meetings are held at:

Edward A. Greer Education Center Board Room
2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121

SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS:

Joint Board/Audit Committee Mtgs.

November 5, 2008 9:00 a.m.

Facilities Update

November 18, 2008 9:00 a.m.

Edward A. Greer Education Center Board Room
2832 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89121

PLEASE NOTE: Work Sessions are now held on
Wednesday mornings.

DISTRICT G PAC MEETING:

November 12, 2008 9:15 a.m.

East Region Office

Corner of Eastern/Vegas Valley

Attendance Zone Advisory Commission (AZAC)

For meeting locations and times, visit

www.ccsd.net

REPORT CARDS:

Contact your child's school regarding the distribution date of report cards.

Dear PAC Members:

Thank you once again for your continued support as I represent you as a School Board Trustee. It is an honor; and I continue to learn the importance of my responsibilities. By the time you receive this letter, the first quarter of the 2008-09 school year will be over. I know you will be closely working with your students to ensure that they are attending school and working with their teachers to succeed academically. Hopefully, you have made contact with the schools and shared any concerns or questions you may have about your child's education. CCSD is here to work with you, as parents, to educate your students.

Our next PAC Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 12th at 9:15 a.m.** at the East Region Office on the Valley High School Campus. Our guest speaker will be with the Grow Network. This organization has been supported by the State Legislature to help parents know how they can help their students on the CRT exams. After your student takes the exams and they have been scored, Grow Network can give parents specific ways of helping their students improve on the CRT test the next time they take it. This group is anxious for parents to know more about their work, and I have been impressed with the program they will present. It would be a great resource to have them come to your school and encourage every parent to take advantage of their knowledge. Join us on the 12th to learn more about this resource.

At the PAC Meeting we will also review the Budget Timeline and what has occurred during the past month. I am sure many of you have had the opportunity to engage with principals and schools in discussing ways that our 2009-10 school budget can be cut. None of us wants to see this happen; but it is coming down the pipeline.

We will also go over the recent election of state legislators and make sure each school knows which legislator represents their school so they can invite legislators to visit the school before the end of January and when the 2009 session begins. Because legislators are the funding source of our schools, it is imperative that they understand the significant impact the budget cuts will have on the classroom, teachers, and of course our students. Please have every one of the District G schools represented at the November PAC Meeting.

Thanks to Erin and Sally for their work on rezoning of some schools and the zoning for the new high school on Carey and Los Feliz and the new elementary school on Christy across the street from Rundle Elementary. If you have opinions on any zoning changes, please feel free to contact myself, Erin, or Sally.

As we begin the holiday season, I am reminded of the many opportunities that a quality education gives our students, and I will continue to ensure that all students meet their potential.

See you on **November 12th.**

Sheila Moulton
431-8575



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