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District Administration

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April 19, 2011

Dear Staff, Parents and Community Members,

I wish that my second budget message to you was more optimistic. The tax extension measure that would have kept funding for education at current levels will not be on the June ballot. This is not good news for California Schools. The Legislative Analyst Office predicts cuts to K-12 education will be from \$330 to \$900 per pupil. This cut will be on top of the loss of \$1.2 million that AUSD has experienced since 2008.

We count on the support of our community through the passage of parcel taxes and the ongoing efforts of fundraising groups (SchoolCare, Albany Music Fund, Albany Education Foundation, Athletic Boosters and PTA's) to bridge the gap between the revenue that the State gives us and what Albany expects in a public school education. The community gives so generously, thanks to the ongoing efforts of our volunteers. Unfortunately, the continued revenue reductions far exceed the pace of our ongoing fundraising efforts. We have no choice but to prepare for the worst in order to protect the financial solvency of the district.

While money is not the only factor in the success or failure of schools, at some point the loss of revenue will impact the comprehensive programs we offer our students. Eighty-five percent of our budget is dedicated to quality staff. It takes people to teach people. We cannot continue to provide the same level of services with the loss of valued staff.

The Board of Education will be conducting two budget study sessions to discuss staff recommendations for reductions. I would like to invite members of the community to attend and give input regarding the recommendations. The study sessions are scheduled for:

Elementary School and District Office Proposed Reductions

Monday

April 25, 2011

6-8 pm

Albany High School Multipurpose Room

Middle and High School Proposed Reductions

Thursday

April 28, 2011

6-8 pm

Albany High School Multipurpose Room

I would like to emphasize that the proposed reductions are in anticipation of a budget that is short on revenue enhancements. May is a time for optimism; it ushers in a new season of growth. I am hopeful that our legislators will see that public education provides California with the skilled workforce to compete in the global marketplace that the world has become. I am also confident that despite the troubling financial picture, our teachers and support staff will continue to provide a rich and rigorous education to Albany children.

Sincerely,

Marla Stephenson
Superintendent