

## Special e-Newsletter



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Committee**

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Community Report**

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Information**

**Submit Your  
Comments**

### What YOU Can Do

**Read the  
recommendations and  
come to one of our  
three board meetings  
(January 28, February  
2, February 16) on  
these changes to share  
your thoughts or email  
sfac@twinriverusd.org**

**Get involved in**

## Facilities and Program Realignment Recommendations

As you know, our district is in the process of looking at all of our schools and programs to understand if the educational options we offer in all of our communities meet the needs and interests of our students and families. In addition, the last two years of budget cuts have reduced the funding that Twin Rivers should have received by nearly 22%. The Governor's proposed 2010-11 budget would cut an addition \$6.6 million from our schools. In combination these drastic reductions in funding are forcing us to take a critical look at how we can protect the most important programs for our students.

### Small and Under-Enrolled Schools

Most of our schools were built during a different era of educational funding - they are much smaller than the national average, and half of our sites have a lot of empty seats. We have tough choices ahead of us.

Consolidating school sites and adjusting boundaries disrupts our students, families, and staff, forcing them to move to another school. I, for one, am humbled at the passion we see from our community about our schools and at the possibility of losing any of them. It reflects the strong relationships our community has with our neighborhood schools, which is a great foundation for building student achievement.

### Protecting Programs and Attracting Students

On the other hand, if we maintain the same number of buildings and the costs to keep them open, we will continue to see deep and painful cuts to the very things that inspire our students and support them in our schools - teachers, support staff, athletic programs, arts, music, transportation, materials, field trips, etc..

There are also two sides to every budget. While we look at cuts, we also need to look at growing our student enrollment. We are entering a new era of school choice dictated by new federal and state policies. Districts and schools that don't proactively build programs that attract students and families will lose enrollment which takes resources away from all of our students. In addition, we need our families and staff to help us communicate about the many positive developments in our schools - talk about our great programs, students, and teachers. Encourage families to stay at our neighborhood schools and help us make them better.

**educational funding before the budget decisions are made and handed down to school districts by getting involved with organizations like Support CA Kids.**

**Subscribe to our e-newsletters at the bottom of our web site and share the good news about our schools and students.**

**Join our Communications Corps and help us market our schools and programs to attract and keep students.**

## **Working Together**

The best we can do is share this information with our community and ask for your direction - what are the priorities? How do we balance the budget years ahead of us? I believe that more minds working together gets us all to the best solutions.

I want to thank the volunteers of our Facilities Advisory Committee. These 24 people representing parents, teachers, classified staff, elementary and secondary principals, and each department of our district spent a great deal of personal time on this issue. They also courageously came forward with preliminary recommendations, shared them with our communities, and listened.

While some agencies bring forward proposals that don't change even after significant community input, our SFAC group was committed to truly listening and incorporating the thoughts and ideas of the more than 600 people who attended our six community forums. The preliminary recommendations and the revised recommendations are dramatically different. They demonstrate that community input is a priority at Twin Rivers. Please visit our [Facilities Advisory web page](#) to review the work of this committee, and tell us what you think. I can assure you; we're listening and working to develop a balanced, achievable, and financially sustainable set of recommendations.

## **Featured Article**



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***Our mission is to inspire each student to extraordinary achievement every day.***

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