

**Community Forum
Don Lugo High School
April 9, 2008**

FINANCE

Q: How will the proposed state budget cuts affect the District?

A: **Governor Schwarzenegger has indicated the state will cut funding for 2008-09 by 10 percent. For the Chino Valley Unified School District that equates to \$27 million, which is an aggregate amount for 3 years, \$9 million for each of the next 3 years. Fortunately, no personnel cuts were made due to the budget cuts, though the District did choose not to fill some vacant positions. We will, however, see a slow-down on the implementation of some programs, equipment may not be replaced as quickly, and additional professional development days will be delayed. We have had dialogue with Associated Chino Teachers (A.C.T.) regarding the number of professional development days and they have collaborated with us to delay the implementation of these days. If the governor does in fact reduce the budget by only 10 percent, we are very confident with the cuts we have made. If he reduces the budget more than that, we will have to go back and explore other options. We set four goals that we followed as we began evaluating potential reductions: protect academic rigor at all costs, stay away from the classrooms, save as many jobs as possible, and be strategic and compassionate making the cuts to ensure that we continue to be effective and efficient in the delivery of instruction.**

Q: Will the budget cuts affect summer school?

A: **Summer school for 2008 will not be affected by the budget.**

We currently do not offer enrichment classes, except in some special circumstances where schools have coordinated with Community Colleges for specific offerings.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Q: Is the community service graduation requirement still on hold?

A: **No, it has been removed as a graduation requirement. We still believe it is important and support the concept.**

Q: If a student takes Algebra I in junior high school, will the District count it as math credit for graduation?

A: Students who complete Algebra I or Algebra I and Geometry in junior high school with a grade of “C” or better will be required to complete only two years of math in high school. They will not, however be given high school units of credit for those courses they successfully completed in junior high school, but it will reduce the number of math credits from 30 to 20. They will still need to complete 225 credits in grades 9-12.

Q: Does the pharmacy class at Don Lugo count as math credit?

A: No, credits earned do not meet the District’s math requirement, but these credits earned will count as elective credits. The pharmacy class is a collaborative effort between Chaffey College and CVS Pharmacy.

Q: How do you feel about the progress of increased academic rigor?

A: I feel we are progressing - we have pacing guides and benchmark assessments that are being implemented, which gives teachers additional data as to how their students are performing, as well as teachers are spending more time discussing teaching strategies and best practices with one another. We are revising our curriculum to ensure rigor and consistency throughout the District. We have purchased Edusoft to scan and disaggregate data. We are evaluating current Board Policies and making revisions to reflect increased rigor, if needed. We continue to move forward by introducing the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Don Lugo High School and the Smaller Learning Communities at Don Lugo, Chino and Chino Hills High Schools to better meet the needs and interests of students. Also, we continue to improve intervention opportunities and supports for students who are experiencing difficulty in school.

Q: How many teachers are using grade programs?

A: About half of our teachers have attended voluntary training and are now using an electronic grade book program. The majority of these are using Easy Grade Pro, which the District provides. GradeAlert is also in use at 4 schools, and a few teachers use other programs such as TeacherWeb. We can generate an exact count of teachers who take the next step and post grades onto District SchoolFusion websites; we know that at least 289 teachers have posted grades recently. The majority of teachers who post their grades on the Internet are secondary teachers, who were the first to be trained.

We are putting processes and training in place for the new school year which will make it much easier for teachers to post their grades, and we expect these numbers to climb rapidly.

Q: Is the grade program GradeAlert?

A: **Yes. GradeAlert is used in many classrooms, though a number of other teachers use EasyGrade Pro.**

Q: When will the new grading policy be effective?

A: **Fall 2008**

Q: When will the homework policy change?

A: **Administration and the Board recently reviewed and clarified the homework policy; no substantial changes were made.**

Q: Will the change from a year round calendar change affect class size?

A: **No. The only thing that the calendar change will affect is the dates when school is in session.**

SUMMER SCHOOL

Q: When will the Math Academy begin at Don Lugo?

A: **There are two different math academies. The enrichment Math Academy begins June 17th and is a collaborative effort between the District and LA City College. The District helped design this academy to allow students to take a lower level math course in the summer in order to enroll in a higher level math course during the regular school year. The District will still require students who participate in the academy to enroll in three (3) years of math during the regular school years.**

The other math academy is the Algebra I Academy and will begin with Summer School. This is an intensive Algebra I academy and is designed for students who need additional time to master the Algebra I standards. This is a 3-semester course. During the summer portion (1st semester), students can earn 5 elective credits for successful completion. During the school year, students can earn 10 math credits.

Q: Is the Math Academy available to junior high students who are struggling in math?

- A: The 3-semester Algebra I Academy is for incoming 8th or 9th grade students. Each school site must enroll enough students during the summer to ensure that there is a full class to continue throughout the school year. This is difficult to accomplish at the junior high school level.**
- Q: Will a student with an impacted high school schedule be allowed to take summer school classes?**
- A: I recommend that you meet with your child’s counselor to explore specific scheduling possibilities for your student. Sometimes tough decisions/choices must be made with regard to course scheduling. If the counselor believes that the student does have an impacted schedule, the principal must approve the summer course prior to the student taking the course. Students may not take summer courses simply to make their schedule easier during the year.**
- Q: Do all high schools offer the same courses for summer school? Does the District offer a higher level science class during summer school?**
- A: Generally, all campuses offer the same courses. There may be some variance due to enrollment numbers. In addition, some of the high schools coordinate with Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) to hold enrichment classes in a summer Science Academy, but they are not District courses. The District helped design these courses, like the math enrichment courses mentioned above, to allow students to enroll in a higher level science course during the school year. These enrichment academies enable us to expand our Advanced Placement offerings.**
- Q: Will Mt. SAC courses be accepted as high school credit?**
- A: It is possible the District may accept community college courses for high school credit, but students and parents must obtain prior written approval from their principal to determine whether the course credits will be accepted. In most cases we expect that all courses will be taken on our campuses.**
- Q: With the opening of the Chaffey College Campus in Chino, will the District encourage students to apply for community college?**
- A: The District identifies options for students. We may provide or lay out the options for students, but we do not encourage students to attend one college over another.**

FACILITIES

Q: As parents, we are grateful for the modernization and improved environment at Don Lugo High School. Will an announcement be made at the rededication ceremony on Saturday about building a stadium?

A: **On Saturday, April 12th, we will see an architectural rendering of a stadium.**

As for the modernization, four years ago, we made a promise to make improvements — we asked for you to give us time and now we are seeing the outcome.

Q: Do you know what the cost of building the stadium at Don Lugo will be? How long will it take?

A: **No, the Architect has yet to estimate the cost of the stadium. It is a lengthy process from design to construction – we are in the 1st phase (end of schematic design phase) of the design process. Once the stadium plans are complete, the District will submit them to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for review and approval. The District estimates this process will take 6 -9 months. Once the DSA approved the, the District can bid the project.**

PARENTS

Q: Will the District continue to offer the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) program?

A: **Parents who want PIQE to continue or to begin in their school need to tell their principal that they want it.**

Q: What is the status of Volunteer Corps?

A: **The District held a volunteer information meeting. We are still working out some of the details, such as when volunteers need to undergo fingerprinting. You can view the types of opportunities available on our brochure which is located on our website.**

Q: You have an awesome administrative team at Ramona Junior High School. How do we get the neighborhood children to attend Ramona?

A: **Spread the word to your neighbors. Mr. Finkbiner and his team are doing a great job. And, it's not only academics going on there. Ramona Jr. High and Don Lugo have started a tutor/mentor program. The students are connecting with each other.**

SECURITY

Q: I had heard about the palm trees being stolen from this campus. What is the security coverage on school campuses?

A: **It is a concern, and we do not have enough security coverage. We are looking into possibilities to heighten security by installing surveillance cameras or more lighting on our campuses. We are exploring funding opportunities through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security to see if we can procure money from those agencies.**