

Capistrano Unified School District  
33122 Valle Road  
San Juan Capistrano, CA

June 22, 2009

Dear Parents, Colleagues, and Community Members:

Although the emotional state is high, it is with heavy hearts that we all gather here this evening. Our combined burdens of frustration, fear, and anger are indicative of the unexpected and harsh realities of the economic turmoil in our world, nation, state, and most immediately; our fine school district.....Capistrano Unified.

This evening our Trustees will vote to adopt or not adopt a budget which represents unprecedented cuts in programs, services, and employees. There are no winners in times like this. There is only sadness on the part of all of us for what losses may occur.

Thus, this is not a time to attack one another, to point fingers, or seek blame. Rather, this is a time to coalesce. It is a time to focus on our children.....our students of all ages and all dispositions. It is a time to come together and identify the needs and priorities of our various communities, with the realization that there is a cost attached to each and every desire. A cost that more often than not includes legislative mandates and case law decisions. Currently, district budgets are shackled by legislation representing special interest curriculum and issue-oriented trends. Such legislation, unequalled in 49 other states, has led the public to perceive education as highly bureaucratic and not student centered.

We cannot allow the ills of a broken and ineffective state legislative body to destroy our ability to work together in the best interest of our students. I believe that our Board of Education hired me to work with you to:

- Ensure the highest quality educational conditions and programs needed by our many and diverse students to provide them with opportunities for high achievement and productive, personally rewarding lives.
- Ensure the fiscal integrity, viability, and future of Capistrano Unified in a manner which allows us to have the greatest possible degree of local control.

**Prudence must be our current guide; Patience and Trust are the resources we need for survival; and UNITED is our destination.**

Sincerely,



Bobbi Mahler, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent

Board of Trustees:

Ellen M. Addonizio, President  
Mike S. Winsten, Vice President  
Larry J. Christensen, Clerk  
Jack R. Brick, Member  
Anna Bryson, Member  
Ken Lopez-Maddox, Member  
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**Next week, start checking your email for listserv messages regarding summer opportunities to meet and provide input related to district needs, priorities, and strategic planning.**