

**Board of Education Summary**  
**March 7, 2011**

The main agenda item for the meeting was a presentation on the 2011-12 school budget, given by Business Administrator Nick Markarian.

The district has to work within the new 2% tax levy cap and wants to achieve a sustainable situation in which program cuts are not required when state aid amounts change, as they have over the past few years. For 2010-11, the district received only \$847,891 in state aid, a drastic cut compared with \$4.9 million, the amount received in 2009-10. For 2011-12, state aid has been increased by \$777,421, for a total of \$1,625,312, but this amount may not be sustained in the future. The district also hopes to get \$1.7 million in extraordinary aid (for special education students), the same amount as last year.

The 2011-12 budget has been reduced to fit within the 2% cap as follows:

- Go to 8 period day at Ridge, saving \$360K
- Use grant from kindergarten parents' fundraising initiative to sustain full-day kindergarten program
- Reduce special education costs at William Annin by \$225K
- Reduce administrative costs by \$883K
- Pursue savings in energy and health care
- Limit use of non-recurring revenue for programs

For 2011-12, the district has non-recurring ("one-time only") revenues that total \$3,359,651, which consist of a 2009-10 tax waiver (\$800,000), extraordinary aid, a federal stimulus grant (\$156,717), and the additional state aid (\$777,421). The additional state aid could be used for programs, to potentially delay cuts for one year, or for capital projects. The recommendation is to use all non-recurring revenues for capital projects, specifically the priority 1 projects identified in the preliminary report from the district's architects. These include roofing and drainage projects. (For more information, see the Spiegle Architectural Group's *Feasibility Study Review* and *Facility Estimates*, which are posted under "Presentations" on the [bernardsboe.com](http://bernardsboe.com) website.)

A more detailed 2011-12 budget will be presented at the March 14 Board of Education meeting, followed by the public hearing on March 28.