



WCCUSD EMPLOYEE COALITION

Good evening School Board members, Superintendent Duffy, and Community,

We're standing before you tonight as the labor representatives for WCCUSD. Collectively we represent 3,500 staff members in WCCUSD, from the food service worker, custodian and classroom aids to the office managers, teachers and principals. We engage our community with translators, community outreach, grad tutors and counselors. We are not just educators, but payroll, admins, campus security and other support staff that put it all together so the teachers can educate our youth. We are United Teachers of Richmond, Teamsters 856, SSA IFPTE Local 21, the West Contra Costa Administrators Association and Adult School Teachers United.

We're here to get a clear picture of the numbers and the discussion over the 1st interim. Our community ranges from El Cerrito to Hercules. We encompass the haves and have nots, from the most needy to some who may be in the top 10%. We feel it's important that the District be good stewards of the resources we do have.

We're all aware that the proposed cuts of over \$48 million will negatively impact students and the classroom. We deeply believe all avenues should be explored before entertaining any cuts. We should collectively go to the state and ask for a piece of the \$7 billion surplus the state is holding on to. We need to see the following 4 things:

1. Share our truths and what happened with our budget. We know this deficit was not just a result of pensions, salary increases or even Special Ed. Those costs are not surprises and are accounted for year over year. Saying those are the things that caused this problem is disingenuous. We need you to acknowledge the mistakes and not blame our hardworking members and our students with the highest needs.
2. If there are cuts, they need to start with reduction of outside consultants and contracts first.
3. Our community needs to truly see that the district is making ways to create more oversight and accountability for every dollar being spent. We need to know that the second a department goes over the approved budget by the Board of Education that bells will ring and the system will not allow that department to continue spending.
4. We have to continue to engage staff members, labor, students, and families in a genuine way so that they feel that they are part of the solution to this problem.

We believe in the leadership of everyone here, and we believe we WILL get out of this crisis together. That's why we feel so strongly that we have to see changes so that history doesn't repeat itself.

Thank you,

WCCUSD Labor Coalition
