

Board To Hold Public Hearing on Proposed Parcel Tax

The Portola Valley School District (PVSD) Governing Board has scheduled a special meeting and public hearing on February 3 at 7:00 pm in Room 1001 at CMS to discuss placing a measure on the ballot this spring to provide funding to prevent difficult cuts to classroom instruction resulting from the current state budget crisis.

The ballot measure that the Board will be considering would provide temporary emergency funding that cannot be taken away by the State. Funds from the measure would protect the core elements of instruction in order to sustain the highest levels of student achievement, including:

- Math and science instruction
- Reading and writing programs
- Attracting and retaining qualified and experienced teachers
- Minimizing class size increases
- Art and music programs

The measure would cost property owners within the district \$168 per year (\$14 per month) and seniors would be eligible for an exemption to ensure the tax is not a burden to those on a fixed income.

The measure would include an independent citizens' oversight committee and mandatory annual audits to ensure funds are used properly. Funds from this measure may not be used for administrator salaries.

The Board is considering calling a special mail-in ballot election this spring. Ballots would be mailed to all registered voters on April 6 and due back on May 4. The voting would work just like absentee voting in any other election. A parcel tax measure like this must receive yes votes from 66.7% of those voting in the election to pass.

PVSD has already made approximately \$1 million in cuts to our local school district budget. This is equivalent to almost 10% of our budget. Every effort has been made to keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. A budget deficit of approximately \$500,000 is projected for next year and there is little left to cut but core instructional programs. This ballot measure gives the community the option to approve temporary funding to minimize the cuts before we begin making cuts to core classroom instruction that will impact the quality of our local schools.

For more information, please visit other postings on our website at www.pvsd.net. In the meantime, please feel free to share your thoughts, concerns and questions with me by emailing acampbell@pvsd.net.