



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 10.2

Meeting Date: January 22, 2015

Subject: 2015-2016 Governor's Budget Proposal

- ☐ Information Item Only
- ☐ Approval on Consent Agenda
- ☒ Conference (for discussion only)
- ☐ Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- ☐ Conference/Action
- ☐ Action
- ☐ Public Hearing

Division: Business Services

Recommendation: Receive for information a review of the Governor's Budget proposal for 2015-2016.

Background/Rationale: The budget cycle is an evolutionary process that is refined as new information becomes available. As the district executes the current year budget, the process begins to develop the budget for the next fiscal year. The first event of the new budget cycle is the presentation of the Governor's Proposed Budget that becomes public in January of each year.

Financial Considerations: Board review and preparation for actions required to effectively balance the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 budgets.

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 minutes

Submitted by: Gerardo Castillo, CPA, Interim Chief Business Officer

Approved by: José L. Banda, Superintendent

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I. OVERVIEW/HISTORY:

The Governor's Budget Proposals for 2015-16 continue the positive theme that has existed over the past two years for public education. As the economy has improved, and been aided by the additional \$7 billion in annual revenues provided by Proposition 30, Governor Brown has been able to advance his agenda with authority for public education. This is great news for Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD), especially since SCUSD has been in a budget reduction mode since the 2002-03 school year. In the past seven years, the district has reduced expenditures, enhanced revenues, or used one-time funds for a total of \$150 million dollars to maintain balanced budgets. FY 2014-15 is the first year in several years that SCUSD did not incur reductions, and the first time since FY 2007-08 that positive certification was presented to Sacramento County Office of Education.

The continuing shortfall of previous years was caused primarily by a reduction in state funding with contributing factors of increased employee costs and declining enrollment. California LEA's experienced a significant reduction in revenue limit dollars in that the revenue limit was up to a deficit of 22.272%. The Governor clearly acknowledged that the growth in education budget was warranted largely because of the fact that the cuts to education were much deeper than other areas of the State Budget. The Governor's effort to restore funding to public education is greatly appreciated.

Budget reductions have been made to all employee groups, supplies, services, utilities, and capital outlay. Decisions considered "away from the classroom" were made many years ago. Recent budget savings include increasing class sizes, reducing central office staff, the reduction or elimination of many Tier III programs such as Adult Education, Arts and Music block grant, deferred maintenance, reduced staffing at school sites, and the implementation of furlough days.

With the release of the Governor's Proposed Budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year we are hopeful that we can continue the recovery process that SCUSD started in FY 2014-15, but because previous years cuts were so severe, it will take several years. Key points of the Governor's Budget are provided below:

- The proposed budget eliminates all remaining education funding deferrals. To be clear, while dollars used to finally eliminate the deferrals count toward Proposition 98 expenditures for the state's purposes, they do not initially provide more spending authority to schools.
- The Budget proposes a Proposition 98 guarantee of \$2.5 billion, or 4%, of additional funding allocated through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), an average increase of \$306 per-pupil over the level provided in 2014-15.

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- Reminder: LCFF is designed to distribute additional funds to all school districts over time, but with particular emphasis on improving the level of support for English Learners, Foster Youth, and students in poverty. The implementation plan for LCFF continues to assume that it will be fully funded by 2020-21.
- The Department of Finance staff estimates that the additional funding proposed in the budget will eliminate 32.19% (compare to 20.68% at 1st interim) of the remaining gap between the 2015-2016 funding level and the LCFF funding target for each school district.
- The Governor's Budget Proposal includes more than \$1.1 billion in prior-year mandated cost reimbursement funds as discretionary one-time Proposition 98 funding to further investments in the implementation of Common Core. The allocation amounts to about \$180 per ADA (\$7 million for SCUSD).
- The Governor's budget includes \$500 million block grant for Adult Education. Programs serving the highest need populations will have priority to funds and Administrative costs will be limited to 5%.
- The Governor's Budget contains \$320.1 million for energy efficiency project grants from Proposition 39 for K-12 agencies (i.e., school districts, COEs, state specials schools, and charter schools).
- Budget proposes a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 1.58% for categorical programs outside the LCFF, including Special Education, Child Nutrition, American Indian Education Centers, and the American Indian Early Childhood Education Program.
- Federal Education Programs have the same level of funding or small increases.
- Beginning with the 2015-16 fiscal year, school districts are once again required to contribute the minimum amount equal to or greater than 3% of the total General Fund expenditures towards Routine Restricted Maintenance.
- Employer costs for retirement benefits for both the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) and California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) are projected to nearly double over the next several years.
 - CalSTRS - From 8.25% in 2013-14 to 19.1% in 2020-21
 - CalPERS – From 11.442% in 2013-14 to 20.4% in 2020-21
- No new funding to address the increased district costs for retirement and no new funding for transportation.
- Proposition 30 taxes are temporary:
 - The .25% sales tax increase expires in 2016 (i.e., the 2016-17 fiscal year)
 - The personal income tax increase expires in 2018 (i.e., the 2018-19 fiscal year)

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Overall, a very good State Budget for public education, funding is however only part of the equation. Declining enrollment, increased operating expenses and uncertain future state resources are the key issues facing the Sacramento City Unified School District. The development of future budgets will be influenced by external variables such as the State Budget and enrollment changes. Internal factors of compensation and number of employees must be commensurate with the number of students. Sacramento City Unified School District must be vigilant in monitoring all expenditures to avoid fiscal distress.

II. DRIVING GOVERNANCE:

- Education Code section 42130 requires the Superintendent to submit two Interim Reports to the Board of Education during each fiscal year. The first report shall cover the financial and budgetary status of the district for the period ending October 31. The second report shall cover the period ending January 31. All reports required shall be in a format or on forms prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Education Code section 42131 requires the Board of Education to certify, in writing, whether the district is able to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year and, based on current forecasts, for the future fiscal year. Certifications shall be based on the Board's assessment of the district budget. Certifications shall be classified as positive, qualified or negative. This education code section also outlines the role of the County Office of Education.
- Education Code Sections 44919, 44951 and 44955 require school districts to provide notice on or before March 15th to certificated employees who are designated for layoff for the subsequent year. The final decision for layoff must occur before May 15th.
- Education Code Sections 45114, 45115, 45117, 45298 and 45308 require school districts to provide not less than 45 days' notice to classified employees of a layoff.
- Education Code section 42127 requires the Governing Board of each school district to adopt a budget on or before July 1. The budget to be adopted shall be prepared in accordance with Education Code section 42126. The adopted budget shall be submitted to the County Office of Education. The County Office of Education determines if the district will be able to meet its financial obligations during the fiscal year and ensures a financial plan that will enable the district to satisfy its multiyear financial commitments.

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III. BUDGET:

Budget projections remain extremely fluid at this point in terms of the budget process. The Governor's Budget Proposals do not mark the end of the Budget cycle—they mark the beginning. The Legislature will have a lot to say about the Governor's priorities, especially with all the new revenues streaming in. This would be the third year in a row that the Governor has made public education his highest priority. In his press conference announcing his Budget, the Governor made the valid point that education took more than its fair share of reductions during the last recession. The Legislature will push for improvements in other areas of the Budget, as they did the last couple of years. The Governor will again be tested, but he has proven that he can stand his ground.

Staff attended the Budget Conference on January 15th and is still reviewing the details.

IV. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES:

Maintain a balanced budget for 2014-2015 and continue to follow the timeline to ensure a balanced 2015-2016 budget.

V. MAJOR INITIATIVES:

- Support implementation of LCFF and the LCAP process.
- Fiscal stability for 2015-16, 2016-2017 and outlying years.
- Focus expenditures to provide the best possible academic outcome

VI. RESULTS:

Required Board actions will take place in order to ensure a balanced Adopted Budget is in place on or before July 1, 2015.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED/NEXT STEPS:

- Follow the approved calendar with adjustments made as necessary.
- Continue to monitor the state budget and its impact on the district finances.
- Meet and communicate with bargaining unit partners.