December 14, 2009

Dear Parent and Elementary School Principal:

On December 10, 2009 the Vacaville Unified School District Board of Education, at its regular meeting, voted to approve the formation of a School Closure Committee. This committee would be made up of a wide range of individuals including parents, teachers, school staff, principals and community members. The committee will meet starting in January 2010 and is charged with providing a recommendation to the Board on a rank ordering of schools to be closed if the decision to close one or more elementary schools is made.

This letter is a request for interested parent volunteers from your school. We are sending this letter to the school principal, who should distribute it to your PTO/PTA as well as let all parents know about this through telephone, posting and any other means deemed necessary by the Principal.

All names for possible committee membership must be submitted through the school principal to leighc@vacavilleusd.org or by telephone at (707) 453-6138, no later than Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. Final notifications will be made on Friday, January 8, 2010. Names sent directly to the Facilities Department will be rejected. If you are interested, please submit your name to your school principal.

Please include your name, email address, mailing address and telephone number where we can reach you during the day.

We would ask that your parent representative be chosen in one of two ways: either the principal of the school may choose a representative, or if a school submits multiple names, the Facilities Department will hold a lottery and choose a random name. This will take place on Friday, January 8. We recommend that you may want to choose one representative and one alternate who would be able to fill in if the regular parent representative cannot attend a meeting. The name of the alternate must also be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2010 to the Facilities Department at the email and telephone numbers listed above.

If a school does not submit a parent representative, the remaining schools may not have an increased number of representatives. The total parent representation will be decreased instead.

The Board approved the following committee composition:

- One parent from each elementary school = 10 parents
- One DELAC Parent Representative = 1 DELAC Parent
- 2 Teachers (any level) selected by the Vacaville Teachers’ Association = 2 Teachers
- 2 School Principals selected by Superintendent = 2 Principals
- 4 Classified Staff (such as custodian, secretary, Maintenance, bus driver, technician) = 4 Classified Staff
- One Vacaville Public Education Foundation Representative = 1 VPEF Representative
- One Citizens’ Oversight Committee (COC) Member = 1 COC Member
- One Business Member or City Council Member = 1 Business/City
The Committee will be co-facilitated by Director of Facilities Leigh Coop and Chief Academic Office Mark Frazier, from the Vacaville Unified School District. A Chairperson of the Committee will be voted on by committee members during the first meeting on January 11. The Committee will be governed by the Brown Act, meaning that all meetings are open public meetings, the meeting agenda and minutes are approved formally, and the method of public comment and discussion are regulated by State law.

The Committee will meet on the following dates and times. All meetings will be held starting at 6:30 p.m. Your parent volunteer from your school should be able to attend all of the following meetings (or select an alternate who could fill in):

All meetings to start at 6:30 p.m.
Tentative location is the Vaca Pena Middle School Multi-Purpose Room
200 Keith Way, Vacaville, CA  95687

Monday, January 11, 2010
Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Monday, January 25, 2010
Monday, February 1, 2010 (if needed)

The Committee is scheduled to have a recommended rank ordering of schools for the Board of Education meeting to be held on Thursday, February 11, 2010.

School closures are one possible avenue of budget cuts that the Board must decide on for the coming year. As the State of California continues to cut the education budget, all school districts in the State are being forced to make significant budget cuts in order to stay solvent.

We will not know how much our budget will need to be cut by until the Governor presents his tentative budget in January, 2010. However, we are already projecting that at least $8 million in cuts in our District might be made. School closures may be one way to help close the budget gap.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

John Aycock
Superintendent