



Coachella Valley Unified School District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CVUSD APPROVES STAFF REDUCTIONS FOR 2018-19

Faced with the need to cut as much as \$6.9 million in the upcoming budget year, on March 1, 2018, the CVUSD Board of Education reluctantly approved staff reductions as a part of an overall cost reduction plan. The March 1 resolution approved cuts to 96 certificated (teaching) staff positions, 67 classified, five classified management, and one classified confidential positions:

The exact positions slated for reduction depend on enrollment projections at each school, which are still in progress. According to CVUSD administration, many of the affected teachers may possibly be absorbed back into other classroom positions created by future retirements and resignations. As a result, fewer teachers will ultimately receive final layoff notices than the number of positions authorized for reduction, and each of the affected teachers will retain first right to return in the event of any additional attrition or any future openings in their credential areas.

“It is always our intent and desire to impact the fewest number of staff members possible in these unfortunate situations,” said Dr. Maria Gandera, the District’s Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. “And then we work hard to bring them back whenever possible.”

“Even with slightly improved state revenue projections due to the acceleration of funding under the Local Control Funding Formula, significant increases in expenses coupled with declining enrollment have contributed to a budget deficit that must be addressed now to maintain fiscal solvency”, according to Erik Lee, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. He cited escalating costs for CalPERS and CalSTRS retirement contributions, inflation, and disappearing CTE grants.

In evaluating proposed budget cuts over the last several months, CVUSD collaborated with stakeholders to generate potential optimizations. In the case of teaching positions, preliminary layoff notices must be issued by March 15, 2018. After a hearing with an Administrative Law Judge, final notices will be sent out by May 14, 2018.

To close, it was clearly expressed that in light of the reductions, Board President Blanca T. Hall stated, “Student safety and the well-being of our staff will remain paramount as we navigate through these changes.”

“The Power of Community For Learning”