

## Superintendent's Message – April 2011

Federal and state lawmakers are working hard to ensure that they develop and pass budgets for 2011 that are fiscally prudent in the current economy. The House of Representatives passed a bill on March 15<sup>th</sup> to maintain 2010 funding levels until April 8<sup>th</sup> while they try to come to agreement on the 2011 budget.

President Obama has stated that he does not want to see any cuts to education. Not only does Obama want to maintain current programs and spending levels, he proposes to spend more money on schools. His budget proposal includes a new \$350 million program to encourage states to build stronger systems for early learning and development for children up to age five. This helps to give children the best chance to learn and grow and helps children acquire the skills and resiliency necessary to meet the challenges of life.

Some lawmakers say that cuts are needed to put the nation on a better financial footing. They have proposed cutting a number of educational programs such as the \$250 million Striving Readers program, \$67 million Even Start family literacy program, National Writing Project, Teach for America, Head Start, and other programs. Those who support cuts to education spending have expressed the opinion that spending money on these programs will not improve student outcomes.

At the state level, there is still no budget deal in sight. Due to uncertainty over California's nearly \$27 billion budget shortfall, more than 19,000 educators have received layoff notices. Many districts have had to prepare for worst case scenarios. According to the California Teachers' Association the number of educators who received layoff notification may increase to more than 20,000 by the time they are informed of all notices. Without an extension on taxes that end in June, school spending could be cut by as much as \$4-5 billion, or 10% of the K-12 annual budget. Drastic reductions in staffing and services in many districts could result as the new school year begins in the fall.

Due to prudent planning and support from you – employees, community, Board, parents and students – Moreland is in relatively fair shape to face these challenging times without issuing layoff notices this school year. We are keeping close watch on information coming out of Sacramento and Washington so that we can adjust appropriately as needed for the next school year. In the meantime, school districts are being advised to plan for significant cuts.

Thank you,

Glen Ishiwata  
Superintendent