



JAMESTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Jamestown Staff and Families:

Last week Governor Newsom put out his May budget revise. The May budget revise is when the Governor puts out his budget for the upcoming year. Prior to COVID-19, the projected budget was very positive. There was a projected cost of living increase, additional one-time monies and great support for schools. In May they readjust the budget based on what the reality is and currently happening within the state before finalizing in June for budget release. Last week we found out that in the budget revise, there will be no new money and the projected budget forecast is grim. The good news for us is that there will be no budget cuts for this year, whereas many other states are receiving current year cuts, so we should consider ourselves lucky in that aspect. Moving forward, next year's budget is very uncertain. We will have to submit next year's school budget in June to the county office. However, since state income taxes do not come in until July, we know that our proposed budget will most likely have a big change over the summer which could trigger the need for more budget cuts. Our plan is to submit a zero budget for next year, meaning that we are not projecting any budget increases and are working with stakeholders and the Governing Board to determine realistic cost savings items and are seeking options to increase revenues.

We are in continued regular discussions with Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools, other district superintendents, and are under direct guidance from our county Public Health Official as to how we can prepare to return safely to school in August. All current information is that any reopening of schools will have significant cost in order to do so safely. The number one priority is to make sure that our students and our staff are safe, with appropriate personal protective equipment, clean and disinfected facilities, and the ability to follow all health and safety guidelines required at that time. Those safety considerations will guide any decision moving forward in the reopening of school. We have yet to hear from the Governor if there will be any state funding to support the reopening of school and if so how much will they cover and will it be enough on an already strained budget. Finally, it is necessary to receive federal relief. The first wave of funding did not provide us as a small, rural school with much relief and the hope is that the next wave will provide more appropriate funding. All of this creates more questions without clear answers and I realize how frustrating that is for all of us.

That being said, our school team is strong and dedicated. Our mission continues to be creating a safe, respectful, learning community. As we move through these uncertain times, Jamestown School District is committed to continuing communication with all stakeholders and to placing our focus on what is best for students.

In partnership,
Contessa Pelfrey, Superintendent