

Fellow Members,

The Bargaining Team has concluded that with all the budget talk and rumors going around, it is important to present the facts as we know them:

*On February 29, 2008, in The Californian, Dr. Scheer credited the Murrieta Teachers Association for accepting a 2% raise last fall rather than pushing for a 4% increase, which was typical of teachers unions in neighboring districts (ex: Menifee: 4%, San Jacinto 5 ½%). He said those contract concessions by the teachers saved the district \$3 million for next year.*

### **Teachers Save District \$20 Million!**

- Last year teachers accepted a 2% raise non-retro (which equates to 1 ½%) for the year. According to Dr. Scheer, in a December 17, 2008 meeting, that decision saved the district approximately \$20,500,000 over three years.

These savings are;

- \$3.5 million for 2008-09,
- \$7 million for 2009-2010,
- \$10 million 2010-11.

### **Teachers Save District \$1 Million!**

- This year 108 teachers opted out of our benefits package. Our benefits package is \$9,275.00 per teacher. This amounts to an additional \$1,001,700 that teachers have saved the district.

### **District Begins Year with \$19 Million Surplus!**

- We began this school year with \$19,000,000 million dollars in reserves. \$12,000,000 in restricted reserves, \$7,000,000 in unrestricted reserves.

### **District Grows in Enrollment!**

*In October 2008, the district website quoted Dr. Scheer as saying, “In these times of economic uncertainty here at MVUSD, we have much to be thankful for. Enrollment is higher than expected.”*

- Our district budgeted for a 150 student decline this year, but grew 321 students. That is an additional \$1.026 million in ADA.

**Think About This!**

*January 23, 2009, on the district website, Dr. Scheer assured staff that the district has sufficient cash reserves to make payroll and meet the districts financial obligations.*

- 13 days later it was announced that district management would receive a 5% pay cut effective July, 1, 2009
- February 2008, during negotiations, the district announced an Administrative salary freeze which was lifted prior to July 1, 2008.

*Dr. Scheer, at the January 29, 2009 budget meeting, stated that “Those that make more are going to have give up more.”*

*Stacy Coleman, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services stated, “This {deficit} number is so big, we can’t possibly keep it away from the classroom.” (Press-Enterprise, February 5, 2009)*

We would like to THANK each teacher for your contribution to the district’s financial health!

Here’s where we are:

- No salary proposal has been presented to the MTA.
- There is no state budget.
- Our next Bargaining session will be on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

We will keep you posted!

~Your MTA Bargaining Team