

EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM  
AND TECHNICAL CENTER

**COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

March 2, 2009 – 3:15 p.m.

**Important  
Information**  
Please Read

**Present:** John Trinh, Elia Evans, Linda Lopez, Tina Silva, Denise Peterson, Lisa Pitts, Jeff Holtzclaw, Pat Morris, Jennifer Rios, Bev Hazen, Sherry Schwan, Nabrina Flick, Denise Peterson, Martin Barragan, Annet Johnson, Leticia Carbajal, Mariejo Macasaet, Scott Snedeker, Musheer Rasheed, Josephine Quach, Dottie Miseti, Gloria Martinez, Helen Jenkins, Carol Higuera, Kathy Hill, Jon McNeil, Colleen Crawford, Laurel Adler, and Patti Whitcher

The state of the nation's economy and its effects on the financial status of education in California has created difficult situations for school districts and ROPs throughout the state. Tough budget decisions must be made immediately. Dr. Adler announced that she will take a pay cut as of 4/1/09. She is doing this by resigning her current contract with the Board as of 3/31/09 and the Board has hired her back under a contract at a much reduced rate as of 4/1/09. Dr. Adler expressed her desire to help out by saving a significant amount of money for the organization.

Dr. Adler gave a brief overview of the current dire economic situation:

- The state budget was finally passed. Education issues had been agreed upon by legislators several weeks ago. There were no negotiations allowed. Everyone in the field of education will have to make sacrifices.
- ROP funding will be cut by 15.5% retroactive to July 1, 2008 which amounts to approximately \$2 million for 08/09.
- Cuts for 09/10 be increased from 15% to 19.84% for a cut of \$2.5 million in 09/10.
- For funding purposes, ROP and Adult Ed are categoricals, not part of the general fund of apportionment for K-12. Categoricals have now been put into a "flex plan" where all money is put into one "pot". This means that, in most cases, Districts can choose to use the funding however they like. But because Joint Powers Administration ROPs are districts in and of themselves, they are exempt from having their funding taken by other districts.
- To summarize: 1) we have an **immediate** \$2 million loss in 08/09, 2) a \$2.5 million reduction in 09/10 and, 3) it is likely that ESGVROP/TC will not receive even the balance of the reduced 08/09 funding until October. The combination of all of the above means that, at minimum, we will be unable to provide summer school except adult fee based classes.
- ADA cap will be reset based on what we do in 08/09. We need to gather as much ADA as possible by June 30, 2009 despite the cut of \$2 million. It's very important to keep classes going and growing.
- The organization is fortunate to have received Title IV accreditation which will allow us to offer Pell Grants to adults. The clients must be provided with excellent service. ROP employees must be accommodating, polite, helpful and patient. This begins at the front office and proceeds throughout the organization. **Good customer service is essential so that we do not lose any of these Pell students!**

Dr. Adler indicated that cuts and changes must be made now or the ROP would be bankrupt with reserves in the red by \$1 million the 2010/2011 school year (which is illegal). The organization will look at cuts in the following areas: 1) No summer school except for adult programs not paid for by ADA, 2) Temporary elimination of prep time until further notice, and 3) 12 month assignments reduced. Unfortunately, all employees will be affected. Some cuts will go into effect by April 1<sup>st</sup> and notifications will take place as soon as the week of March 9th.

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Every effort will be made to make cuts in areas that will not disrupt classrooms. Care will be taken to be sure that PERS and STRS credits are protected.

**THINGS WE CAN DO:** Fee-based classes (days, nights and weekends), watch out for local, state and national grant opportunities, turn off lights and computer monitors, purchase only those things that are essential.

Teachers could make up some of the reduction in prep time by teaching night or weekend adult classes.

Good things in the pipeline: Pell grants, stimulus money filtered through various government agencies, expanded adult programs.

Scott Snedeker suggested making the Del Norte campus an all-adult campus and keeping all high school students on high school campuses. Dr. Adler stated that we are looking into all possibilities.

John Trinh suggested that ROP could do adult classes in computer repair and compete with the big box stores.

Jeff Holtzclaw expressed his appreciation to Dr. Adler for taking the lead in shouldering more than her share of the financial cuts.

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