

## FALL RIVER JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent  
Greg F. Hawkins



*Governing Board*  
President: Teri Vigil  
Clerk: Cindy Ronquist  
Trustee: John Hamilton  
Trustee: Randy Oller  
Trustee: Ignacio Venegas

*"Education is Power"*

June 9, 2017

Dear FRJUSD Board of Trustees and Employees,

At the April Board meeting, a report was given which outlined the district's financial situation after the Second Interim was completed. The district was on solid ground with programs in place to support the success of all students, well-deserved salary increases for all district employees, in addition to having a very healthy reserve. How quickly things have changed. Due to significant budgetary cuts at both the state and federal levels, in addition to increased and ongoing district contributions to STRS and PERS employee retirements, we find ourselves in need of greatly reducing expenditures in all areas and taking an extremely cautious approach to purchases.

We are familiar with the concept of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which gives school districts the autonomy to make financial decisions as they are determined. To insure accountability and overall student success, our district has once again completed the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). This plan, which requires considerable opportunities for stakeholder involvement, provides assurances that the three targeted student groups in the LCAP—Low Income, English Learner, and Foster Youth students, will receive additional Supplemental and Concentration dollars to ensure their needs are met. Each district's proposed budget is contingent upon their County Office of Education's approval of their plan, which is also subject to an audit.

We have completed negotiations with the FRTA bargaining unit, and during this upcoming 2017-18 school year will be implementing the second year of salary increases. While these increases are significant, all parties recognize the need to increase compensation to continue to attract and retain superior employees, especially in the wake of the statewide teacher shortage. In order to maintain these salary increases, it is extremely important to watch spending and expenses. We must work together to insure this.

All financial decisions will be made with caution. The Fall River Joint Unified School District's Board of Trustees, FRTA, CSEA, administration, support staff, in addition to the various supporting organizations throughout our school community, are committed to ensuring that our students' education and well-being continue to be our top priority.

Sincerely,

Greg F. Hawkins  
Superintendent