



San Diego Unified
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Office
Office of the Superintendent
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John Lee Evans
President

February 9, 2012

William A. Kowba
Superintendent

Bill Freeman, President
San Diego Education Association
10393 San Diego Mission Road, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108

Dear Bill,

Thank you for reaching out to the District to cooperate in an effort to seek legislation to realign the state budget process and layoff deadlines for school districts. We agree that our state budget process is broken, and in particular, that the misalignment of the state budget timeline and the certificated staff layoff timeline has resulted in hundreds of our San Diego teachers receiving layoff notices that are later rescinded.

This year, the same tragedy could unfold again – or we can work together, as you suggest, to change the state law so that the preliminary layoff notification deadline is moved from March 15 to June 15, and the final layoff notification deadline is moved from May 15 to August 15. This change would provide the district the benefit of analyzing the Governor's May Revision before making decisions on preliminary notices; and would further provide the district the benefit of analyzing the final state budget act before making decisions on final layoffs.

It is for this reason that we invite you to officially endorse legislation to make this important change. Attached is a draft letter to our San Diego legislative delegation that we would like to co-sign with you. In addition, we will commit to work with other large urban school districts to seek budget legislation that will provide workable tools to implement possible midyear cuts in a way that will minimize the need for layoffs related to the November ballot measure.

Thank you again for working together on this important matter. We look forward to your prompt response. As you are aware, time is of the essence. Legislation would need to be introduced immediately in order to have an urgency bill approved and to the Governor's desk by March 1, which would give the district the ability to delay issuance of preliminary layoff notices.

Sincerely,

John Lee Evans
San Diego Unified School District
President, Board of Education

William A. Kowba
San Diego Unified School District
Superintendent