

Dear Parents and Toler Family Members,

As noted in the March PTA Newsletter, budget cuts are coming to the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), much more than recent years. There is a shortfall in the budget with decreased funding from the state and increased pension costs. We are writing to request your assistance and to provide information regarding the upcoming budget cuts to Toler Elementary and the San Diego Unified School District.

In a letter to parents regarding budget cuts, Superintendent Cindy Marten stated, "We have also committed that any budget solutions will not increase our core class sizes. We believe students learn best in small classes, and our class sizes are some of the lowest in the state." However, in mid March it was reported in the [San Diego Union Tribune](#), the district handed out layoff notices to the equivalent of 977 employees, 850 of which were expected to be certified professionals, including a significant number of teachers at Toler. The teachers and staff have been doing a wonderful job keeping the disruption away from the students. They are letting their voices be heard to the school board regarding the impact this level of layoff will have on Toler. The expected impact to Toler was discussed at a recent PTA Board meeting. The impact is going to be great.

Parents and family members, we need to let our voices be heard as well. The school board anticipates that the state will likely provide an additional \$20 million dollars to the SDUSD budget, however, Ms. Marten recently said, "That's not \$20 million to bring people back," she said. "One of our strategies for 2018-2019 is not taking any money in to backfill (positions) that are cut." How the district is able to cut 1 out of 7 teachers and keep core class sizes the same doesn't add up.

The district, the school, and we as a community and taxpayers, have invested in our teachers. A great deal of resources have gone into teacher enrichment and development. That investment in teacher training and consistency of the teaching staff at Toler is reflected in the efficiencies and creativity they put into our kids' curriculum. They have found creative solutions to bring science, social studies, music and the arts into the classroom. They do this by working together to fill gaps in resources. It takes time and camaraderie to develop such relationships and efficiencies. We see it at Toler and it is seen at the District level as well. We want to keep our teachers. We don't want to see them go to other schools or districts.

On March 15th, a [press release](#) was posted on the San Diego Unified School District website highlighting that SDUSD was above average in the State's new accountability testing. Cindy Marten stated, "I'm extremely pleased with how San Diego Unified performed compared to other large districts across the state. Our scores show real growth and strong results in nearly

every category. We believe this growth is due to our outstanding community, our strong parents and teachers and our other dedicated professionals. Most of all, we believe these results show students achieve more when we ask more of them, while providing the opportunities and support they deserve.”

Teachers are key in building this kind of success and the long-term stability of our schools is what cultivates a strong and efficient learning environment. Do not divest in our children.

Contact Cindy Marten, and let her hear your concerns. Let her know she is accountable.

**San Diego Unified Superintendent:**

**Cindy Marten**            1-619-725-5550 ([cmarten@sandi.net](mailto:cmarten@sandi.net))

Twitter: @sdschools    Facebook: @superintendentcindymarten

Contact ALL the San Diego Unified School Board Members, including [John Lee Evans](#) - District A (Toler’s District)

**San Diego Unified School Board members:**

Board members are elected by sub-districts, but members represent the entire District. Many board members are up for re-election in 2018.

- [District A - John Lee Evans](#) ([johnleeevans@sandi.net](mailto:johnleeevans@sandi.net))
- [District B - Kevin Beiser](#) - Board Vice President ([evinbeiser@sandi.net](mailto:evinbeiser@sandi.net))
- [District C - Michael McQuary](#) ([mmcquary@sandi.net](mailto:mmcquary@sandi.net))
- [District D - Richard Barrera](#) - Board President ([rbarrera1@sandi.net](mailto:rbarrera1@sandi.net))
- [District E - Sharon Whitehurst-Payne](#) ([swhitehurst-payne@sandi.net](mailto:swhitehurst-payne@sandi.net))

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San Diego Unified School District  
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Elementary school sets the foundation for our kids’ education. We need to ensure our kids have a strong and stable base to build a lifetime of learning upon.

Communication guidance:

- Be polite, be positive, be clear.
- State what is going well and the concern how budget cuts will impact that progress.
- Personal stories and experiences are helpful.