

BOLINAS-STINSON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
125 OLEMA-BOLINAS ROAD
BOLINAS, CA 94924

PHONE (415) 868-1603
FAX (415) 868-9406

January 21, 2009

Dear Members of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District Communities,

At every level, from the international community to our own Bolinas and Stinson Beach communities, it seems like we are looking at possibilities for solving daunting challenges.

We, the administration and school governing board, want to keep you informed of the latest developments in state, federal and local school funding issues and how we expect these changes to affect education for the children in our communities.

First, it is important to say that no one has a clear vision of the future for educational funding in California because the state legislature has failed to agree on a budget for the current year. Some of the possible budget solutions being discussed predict a grim outcome for our public schools. Some recent news stories report that as many as one out three teachers in California will be laid off this Spring and that average class size will grow to over forty students across the state. We are hopeful that drastic reductions such as these will not be necessary in the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District. As a district we have been very careful to build and maintain a cash reserve well in excess of the state requirements and fortunately our local school parcel tax bolsters our programs and staff salaries.

Although we may not face the severe cutbacks affecting many schools, we will be significantly impacted by this statewide crisis. We are committed to making the difficult choices necessary to remain fiscally sound with input from all members of our school community. This includes our parents, our staff, students, school administration and the community at large. Our administration and governing board have met with the staff and are beginning to draft contingency plans that attempt to minimize the effect of funding cuts on our children, ensure the vitality of our staff, and maintain the integrity of our educational program.

We have scheduled a community forum to provide information, answer questions and engage in a discussion regarding the finances of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District. The forum is scheduled for **February 4th from 6-8:30PM in the Quesada**. Childcare will be provided with a requested donation of \$10 per child. Please call the Bolinas office to arrange at 868-1603.

In the larger perspective our school district is enjoying the benefits of hard work by so many in our community. Our children are academically successful, singing beautifully, producing wonderful art and learning Spanish and technology. They are enjoying organic lunches five days a week, our new playground is completed and we continue to have a wonderful staff of teachers, classified employees and administrators that work every day to ensure that our unique educational programs continue to thrive.

We strongly encourage you to attend the meeting on February 4th and to join us as we work as a community to meet the current and future needs of our children. Please feel free to contact us at school if you have questions or access our website at www.bolinas-stinson.org for further information.

Sincerely,

Larry Enos, Superintendent

Members of the Board of Trustees
Arianne Dar
Jennie Pfeiffer
Tom Williard
Steve Marcotte
Stacey Henderson