

*This email is being sent to all members on the PFT Email Distribution List on behalf of Kelly Logan, PFT President*

### **Top Three from PFT December 2023**

*Please see your site rep for details*

### **Special Ed Teacher Vacancies Update**

- The district has successfully filled many of the special education teacher vacancies. This is great news and will provide much needed relief for many of our campuses!
  - 13 positions were filled at 8 elementary sites, 2 middle school, and 2 high school sites (one of the high school sites had two positions filled).
- 4 vacancies remain at 1 high school, 2 middle schools, and Connect Academy.
  - Hiring for those positions is being vigorously pursued.
- SLP vacancies are also being filled at 6 elementary schools 1 middle school, and 1 high school.
  - Five .2 SLP vacancies remain, that are being filled by time sheeting or 120% contracts for existing staff.
    - NPA SLPAs will be starting soon to support the .2 vacancies above and the SLPAs will also begin to offer makeup services to students.
- 4 out of the 5 OT positions are filled, and the district is working to fill the one remaining. They are also still working to fill two DHH vacancies.

### **Joint Behavior Support (for all students, with and without an IEP)**

- IBPS subcommittee met on Dec. 5 to brainstorm solutions to systematically address behavior support for all students.
- We will have more information soon on proposed supports to tackle this issue in the short term. Long-term strategies will also need to be intentionally explored over time.
- A second meeting about behavior support was held today with a larger team that included PSEA, PFT, LSS, SSS, and three principals. The district hears the level of concern from sites, and this team is proactively working to create a support plan as soon as possible.

### **CA State Budget**

- Per recent Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) report, CA is facing a significant state budget deficit for 2024-25.

- Per CFT, this amount is similar to the deficit during the Great Recession, but importantly, the legislature and governor have tools and reserves available to address the shortfalls that were not available at that time.
  - While there are many quick solutions in the LAO's report, CFT will continue to advocate for no cuts and increased fundings for our public schools and colleges.
- Why the deficit?
  - Revenues from tax returns were significantly below expectations, and the totals were unknown until last month, thanks to the seven-month deadline extension.
  - Though the filing deadline did not change the amount of taxes due, the legislature and governor had to rely on projections when they finalized the 2023-24 budget, and the projections were far off. In a typical year, information about revenues would be available before the budget was finalized.
  - On top of this uncertainty, the state and country are both experiencing an economic downturn, which started in California during the summer of 2022, and the Federal Reserve's increases to interest rates and borrowing costs have had a particularly hard impact on California's economy.
- Governor will present the initial state budget proposal for 2024-25 on January 10
  - PFT staff will attend School Services of CA Budget Workshop January 19 in Long Beach to hear the details of the proposed state budget.
- This will be followed by months of legislative budget hearings.
- The budget is revised by mid-May and adopted by June 15, before the start of the next fiscal year on July 1.