

Trustees approve district budget

The 2006-2007 budget for Yosemite Unified School District is roughly \$20 million

By [David Richards](#)

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The board of trustees for the newly formed Yosemite Unified School District approved its first budget last week by a 4-0 margin.

Board member Greg Schoonard was not present for the vote.

Voters passed the unification of the Yosemite Joint Union School District with the Coarsegold Union School District during the November special election.

The roughly \$20 million 2006-2007 budget for the district includes information based on the state budget signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger Friday.

Srini Vasani, chief business officer for the district, provided a presentation on the budget last week for trustees, district staff and members of the public.

"The district is able to meet its financial obligations for the current fiscal year and the next two years," Vasani said.

District revenues for 2006-2007 are estimated at \$20.23 million, with expenses estimated at \$19.85 million.

Neither cutbacks nor layoffs are scheduled.

Vasani said he is pleased with the state budget and its contributions locally.

"It is a good budget for education," he said.

One proposed item on the state budget is an expected \$166 million annual block grant for arts and music, which will be split among California schools at a rate of \$25 per student.

Locally, funding based on the revenue limits of the school district, factored by average daily attendance, makes up 79 percent of the budget's estimated revenue for 2006-2007, while 12 percent comes from state revenue, six percent from local revenue and three percent from federal revenue.

The revenue limit for the new unified district is \$6,314, compared with \$5,297 for the previous Coarsegold district and \$6,264 for the former Yosemite district.

The limit is the amount the state allocates each district annually per student average daily attendance.

The ADA of the unified district is 2,267.

Statistics indicate the ADA for the district has been stable, as the ADA for Yosemite High School decreased by roughly 30 last year, while the ADA for Coarsegold increased by roughly 30.

Salaries and benefits make up 81 percent of the budget's expenses, while 12 percent are services and operating expenses, six percent are supplies and one percent falls into the other range.

The budget includes \$75,000 for transportation upgrades and \$65,000 for refreshing technology within the district.

Both Vasani and Superintendent Bill McCabe stressed the importance of transportation.

Information provided at last week's meeting indicates that in the transportation fleet used for Coarsegold students, seven of 13 buses are 20 or more years old, while three of five vans and trucks are 16 or more years old.

It's more of the same for Yosemite High School.

Out of the school's 10 buses, half are between 15 or 20 years old, while four of the 10 vans and trucks are 15 years old.

"Safety becomes a concern," McCabe said. "We want our students to be safe."

Vasani added that replacing certain vehicles will be an issue the district will look into in the near future. Vasani also expressed a concern for fuel costs.

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"Transportation is important because if you don't have buses, you don't have kids and if you don't have kids, you don't have revenue," he said.

Overall, Vasan said he was pleased with the district's budget for 2006-2007.

"Because of the blended revenue limit and the unification, we are going to be financially really strong not only for this year, but for the next two years," he said.



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49165 Crane Valley Rd [426] | PO Box 305 | Oakhurst, CA 93644-8621
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