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## EDUCATION

### State cuts affect Yosemite Unified

#### YUSD eliminates 13 positions to make up for cuts

By [Denise Aday](#)

(Updated Friday, February 29, 2008, 10:09 AM)

Economic times are tough and the school districts are not immune.

The Yosemite Unified School District's Board of Trustees held a special meeting Tuesday to approve two resolutions that will help the district cope with a loss of more than a \$1 million in state revenue.

In a closed session the board approved a resolution to notify employees of the release of 8.97 full-time equivalent employees. The restructure will affect temporary, categorical and or probationary certificated employees and is projected to impact 13 of the district's 292 employees.

"Unfortunately at this point, we are not talking about quality anymore; we are talking about survival," said District Superintendent Bill McCabe.

McCabe said other districts and even the state are in worse economic straits, but the situation is dire.

"School revenues are being cut by 3 percent," McCabe said. "That means a loss of more than \$1.1 million for our district."

McCabe said he would not use the word "cuts," but said there was no way to avoid restructuring the school district. He also noted that enrollment in district schools has decreased.

"Unfortunately, we are not immune to economics," he said.

"More than 80 percent of our organization is salaried employees. The salaries have contractual step increases that leave us no room for negotiation. Costs are going up and our revenue is going backward.

#### Restructuring to cut expenses

"We had to hold the special meeting to meet deadlines," McCabe said. "By law, certificated employees must be notified by March 15 if they are to be released, and that deadline was looming. Classified employees must have 45 days' notice."

YUSD chief financial officer Srinu Vasan said the notices will be sent out the second or third week in March. McCabe said the



Yosemite Unified School District Superintendent Bill McCabe, trustee John Reynolds and executive assistant Joanne Pitts attended Tuesday's special board of trustees meeting. The district is eliminating 8.97 full time equivalents, or 13 of its 292 employees, to make up the loss of \$1.1 million in state funding.  
Photo by Denise Aday

names of the individuals affected will not be released.

"That is a confidential personnel issue between the district and the employee," McCabe said.

McCabe said the district will be financially conservative and its goal is not to negatively impact the students and the public they serve.

"The students are our most precious resource," he said. "They are our future."

He said the state is not helping, noting that California is 47th in the nation on educational spending.

"One of our challenges will be cash flow," he said. "The governor is going to defer the June and July apportionment payments until September. That is like your boss holding two of your paychecks for two or three months, with no penalties and no interest. We are forced to use our state-mandated reserve and that will have a financial impact on our organization. It is a very dire thing, yet California is spending \$1,100 less than the national average on every student. Every voice is important. If that is not acceptable, you need to make your voice heard."

Mccabe said the board is asking everyone in the organization to do more to make it through the next few years.

"If we have to adjust or eliminate a program, it is not by choice," he said. "With California unemployment going from 4.8 percent last year to 6.1 percent this year, we just have to find a way to live through these challenging times."

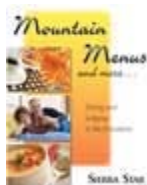
The board said they expect the changes to help keep the district financially healthy for the next three years.

"After that, it depends largely on the economy, the housing market and if families move to the area," McCabe said. "Right now, a lot of empty nesters are moving into the area."

#### **Increase fees for revenue**

In addition to the 13 people being cut, the board approved a resolution to increase development fees in its fee-sharing agreement. The fees for residential development will increase from \$2.63 per square foot to their maximum of \$2.97 per square foot, and fees for commercial/industrial development will increase from \$0.42 per square foot to their maximum of \$0.47 per square foot.

Board trustee Christine Wilder did note that anyone anticipating development could prepay their fees at the lower rate until the effective date of April 28.



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