



# AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent, Amy L. Slavensky, Ph.D.

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**PREPARE, SUPPORT, INSPIRE!**

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## **Superintendent's Report to the Board of Trustees**

**June 26, 2019**

We, the School District, care very much about all of the students, families and staff of our entire Amador County school community. This is demonstrated in all that we do – such as fostering greater collaboration through school level teams and district level teams.

For example, school leadership teams and School Site Councils now make the decisions about what will be the school's instructional focus and what will be the work of the teachers and staff at the school; the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) now makes shared decisions about districtwide assessments and districtwide professional development; new high school graduation requirements were developed and recommended to the Board by a large, diverse group of teachers, counselors and leaders; a standards-aligned elementary report card was developed by teachers and used by all teachers; and an NGSS team of teacher leaders initiated standards-aligned work and have developed such great capacity they are ready to be our trainers and coaches for this important work.

During these challenging financial times, we have pulled together as a whole team, learned and sacrificed together, made decisions together, and grown together. We are committed to fiscal discipline and making the very best decisions possible for our students.

Now, this evening, it's important to share more information that has come to light. Within the last two days, after the board agenda was posted on Friday, I learned that the federal government, which provides the majority of the funding for Special Education for the County Office of Education, informed our Business Office that they will be late sending the dollars to all school districts and county offices of education in the state.

Because the County Office will not receive these funds from the federal government on time, and because the ACOE does not have healthy reserve funds to rely on in unusual times like this, without additional support from the School District, the ACOE will not be able to make payroll at the end of this week.

Because we care very much about all of our students, our teachers, our staff, and our leaders, we want to make sure all of our employees are paid on time.

Because we care and are committed to all of our employees, the District is making a special, advanced cash contribution to the County Office of Education in the amount of approximately \$200,000. The County Office's cash shortfall is approximately \$400,000 and I understand Dr. Russell has a plan to address the additional need.

Because a cash advance is an internal function, from one Amador County Public Schools agency to the other, and because it is part of a contribution that was already planned and budgeted for, it does not require additional board approval. It was already planned, budgeted, and approved by our Board

this evening, and will be transferred or contributed early to ensure that the County Office of Education can make payroll on time for all of its employees.

To be clear, the District has made excellent progress in rebuilding our reserve funds as noted in this evening's Board report from Mr. Critchfield. While this immediate problem is not the District's problem, but rather the County Office of Education's problem, we have more than 600 District students with disabilities who receive services from County Office of Education employees. Accordingly, this is our professional response to County Superintendent Russell and the Amador County Office of Education.

As a School District, we have worked to improve our fiscal status in a short period of time and we will continue to take proactive steps of fiscal discipline and cost efficiency. This includes increasing needed support for oversight, planning, monitoring and accountability for all of our students and employees. As mentioned previously, in order to ensure the needed support for our 600+ District students with disabilities during these uncertain economic times, this may also include a Director of Special Education for the School District.

Finally, as the District Superintendent, I would like to reassure our Board, our employees, and our community that yes, of course, we will provide a cash advance to make sure all of our employees are taken care of, and we will continue to do everything within our capacity to work together with the County Office of Education – for the sake of all of our students.