



PLACERVILLE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

1032 THOMPSON WAY
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667

NANCY LYNCH, Ed.D.
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Debbie Akin
Misty diVittorio
Robin Lyons
Sean Martin
Karen Parker

August 22, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year in in the Placerville Union School District! We are honored to serve your children and have you as part of our school family.

Over the past several months, you may have heard people in the community asking, "Why are there so many school districts in El Dorado County?" This is an interesting question, given that at one time there were over 150 school districts in our county. Currently, there are 2 unified, 1 high school and 12 elementary school districts that stretch from the El Dorado Hills to South Lake Tahoe. While over time, many districts have consolidated, we still have a number of very small districts that serve students in remote areas of our county. Because this question is often asked, local school and county education officials began a process of learning more about consolidation and explore if it would make sense for us to consider it again.

During the past two years district superintendents have begun learning more about consolidation, which is sometimes called reorganization, from districts who have gone through the process. School Boards were educated on the issue this past October, when they reviewed a preliminary study done by *School Services of California* which presented various combinations of school districts in our county that might consolidate and the increased revenue that could be generated. Some combinations generated more revenue than others.

Consolidation is a very complex process which has many considerations that must be addressed. The State of California has outlined 10 criteria that must be met in order for a consolidation to be approved. These criteria are: Adequacy of size; substantial community identity; equitable division of property and facilities; not promote racial/ethnic discrimination/segregation; no substantial increase in state's costs; no disruption of educational programs; no significant increase in housing costs; not primarily designed to result in significant increase in property values; not cause a substantial negative affect on fiscal management/fiscal status of affected districts; any other State Board of Education criteria prescribed.

As of the present time, four area school districts have participated in a joint Board meeting where the issue of consolidation was discussed. Those districts were: Placerville, Buckeye, Mother Lode and Gold Oak. The discussion ranged from questions about the realities of consolidation, to the opportunity of conducting an in-depth study that would more clearly define not only the potential for enhanced school revenues, but as well the corresponding costs associated with moving forward. These important considerations are among many factors to be considered as part of any decision to consolidate two or more school districts in El Dorado County. It should be clearly stated, that no districts have made a decision to consolidate. Other districts throughout the county may become part of on-going conversations. The Placerville Board of Trustees, at their August 17, 2011 Board Meeting, selected two members to participate in the next round of discussions.

Going forward, we will keep you informed of any developments on this important issue. Please feel free to check out our website at www.pusdk8.us to see the link for general information on reorganization/consolidation. As always, I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE 1032
THOMPSON WAY
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
(530) 622-7216
Fax 622-0336

LOUISIANA SCHNELL SCHOOL
2871 SCHNELL SCHOOL ROAD
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
(530) 622-6244
Fax 622-2309

SIERRA SCHOOL
1100 THOMPSON WAY
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
(530) 622-0814
Fax 622-0532

EDWIN MARKHAM SCHOOL
2800 MOULTON DRIVE
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
(530) 622-0403
Fax 622-5584