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# PVUSD PROGRESS

**progress** *n* [ME, fr. L *progressus* advance, fr. *progressus*, pp. of *progredi* to go forth, fr. *pro-* forward + *gradi* to go – more at PRO-, GRADE] **1a**: a royal journey marked by pomp and pageant **b**: an expedition, journey, or march through a region. **2**: a forward or onward movement (as to an objective or to a goal) : ADVANCE **3**: gradual betterment; esp : the progressive development of mankind – **in progress** : going on : OCCURRING

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*Press Release*

*For immediate release*

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## **PVUSD TAKES FIRST STEP IN MAKING MAJOR BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

PVUSD had balanced its budget for the current year and projected a balanced budget for the next three years and then the State ran out of money. Based on the Governor's proposals, the District is predicting a shortfall of over eight million dollars in next year's budget. It has already reduced the current budget by almost one million dollars to meet the reductions predicted for this year. The District's large Budget Committee made up of parents and District staff has been working since mid-January to identify possible areas where reductions can be made. In last night's Budget Workshop, the initial list of possible budget reductions was presented and discussed at length.

The possible reductions covered a variety of approaches in five major categories. The elimination of individual positions included 14 administrators, 22 certificated and 16 classified staff. Three small programs were listed for elimination and proposals were made to increase revenues as well as transfers of funds from categorical programs to general education programs. A list of savings was recommended, including cutting back categorical programs that were encroaching into the general fund. A big savings was projected in the reduction of gas and electricity use, including less use of heating and cooling in all District buildings. Staffing changes were also suggested including adding one to the class size at the secondary level.

The largest reduction coming from the Budget Committee with the support of the District bargaining units was the use of up to four furlough days. In this case, all employees in the District would take four days off during the year without pay which would save the District over two million dollars. Everyone is cooperating in the quest for budget reductions and the staff is willing to reduce their annual salary by reducing the number of days they are paid for the year.

The District is constrained by a large number of State laws that restrict how it can reduce its staff and balance its budget. The Board will be asked to take the first steps in staff reduction by early March for many of the proposed items to meet a legal deadline. This is necessary to keep these items available to address next year's budget shortfall. The District will not actually know what funding the State will provide until sometime this summer, but at the same time is legally required to adopt its final budget by June 30. The Board will meet again on February 26 to consider the proposed reductions and to take the initial action on staff reductions.

*Pajaro Valley Unified School District*