

# Menlo Park City School District Receives State Funding

January 17, 2008

Dear School Community,



I am pleased to announce that at its December meeting the State Allocation Board supported a District formal appeal that will result in an appropriation of approximately \$1 million dollars for construction of the Teacher Educational Resource Center in our District. The appeal was submitted when the Office of Public School Construction, the "administrative arm" of the State Allocation Board, initially denied the District application for funding of the project.

The Teacher Educational Resource Center was proposed as a joint use project with the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation as the District's partner. With that arrangement the project became eligible for State funding. The facility will house many programs that the Foundation financially supports such as the *Technology Department*, the *21st Century Classroom Project*, a meeting room for training and teacher collaboration, office space for curriculum coordinators, a science materials distribution center, and a Foundation office for its staff and volunteers. ([See attached Fact Sheet.](#))

The appeals process took nearly six months after the Office of Public School Construction determined that the District along with other public school districts had failed to meet a new technicality of language in the 2006 Bond indicating that it intended to participate in the State Joint Use Project application process. This interpretation by the Office of Public School Construction was developed following the Bond and the District application for funding.

Our legislative representative, **Senator Joe Simitian**, played an instrumental role in the appeal process as a member of the State Allocation Board. Senator Simitian and his staff assisted me in developing our appeal and maneuvering through the legislative process in Sacramento. During the meeting for a final decision, he demonstrated to the State Allocation Board that the new interpretation of language was being retroactively applied to applications for funding by public school districts that acted in good faith. On behalf of the District, I would like to express our appreciation to Senator Simitian for his assistance and tireless support of public education.

With this infusion of State funding, the District has scheduled construction of this new and important facility for summer of 2008.

Ken Ranella  
*Menlo Park Superintendent*

## Quick Links District Website

District Calendar

Board Meetings & Agendas

## Menlo Park Elementary School District

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