



**Carlsbad Unified School District**

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**CUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTES REORGANIZE/RELOCATE CARLSBAD  
VILLAGE/SEASIDE ACADEMY AND TO KEEP  
BUENA VISTA ELEMENTARY OPEN**

Carlsbad, CA ... At a special meeting on April 18, 2012, the Carlsbad Unified School District Board of Trustees convened to consider reorganizing/relocating the Carlsbad Village Academy (CVA) alternative/continuation and Carlsbad Seaside Academy (CSA) independent study programs currently housed in a District-owned facility at 1640 Magnolia Avenue and to consider closing Buena Vista Elementary School.

After staff presentations, oral communications and Board discussions on each item, the Board voted to follow the recommendations of District Superintendent John A. Roach, Ed.D. to reorganize and relocate CVA/CSA and to keep open Buena Vista. Buena Vista, which just received California Distinguished School recognition, is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011-12.

The meeting was held at the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center to accommodate the many people anticipated to attend. The hundreds of people in attendance included parents, students, staff and community members.

The two campuses were considered based solely on financial concerns. The District faces a projected 2012-13 budget deficit of \$2.4 million. The 2013-14 deficit is anticipated to be as high as \$9 million.

Reflecting the sentiments of her fellow Trustees, Board President Kelli Moors said she voted “with a heavy heart” to reorganize and relocate the CVA/CSA programs. “It’s not about school performance; it’s about the money. We’re in desperate times,” she noted. Moving the nearly 200 students to the Carlsbad High campus beginning next fall could save the District approximately \$300,000 per year.

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The CVA has exhibited exemplary student achievements, including an annual high school graduation rate of 96.5-98% and an API growth of 127 points since 2006, including an 86-point leap last year.

Superintendent Dr. Roach states, “We are now heavily focused on implementing a smooth transition process that will minimize impacts to CVA/CSA students and staff during and after reorganization and relocation. We are intent on retaining a sense of Academy culture and pride that will maximize these students’ ability to continue achieving.”

Buena Vista currently serves 286 students, making its per-student operating cost the highest of all nine elementary schools in the District. To drive enrollment, the District intends to implement a strategy that promotes Buena Vista as a technology magnet school (Jefferson Elementary currently is an International Baccalaureate magnet) and to expand the existing on-site preschool.

As part of its expenditure-reducing efforts, the Board approved \$2.3 million in budget cuts in November 2011 and an additional \$1.3 million in February 2012. The District is currently negotiating with both employee unions on compensation reductions.

Information on the CVA/CSA relocation and reorganization is at <http://www.slideshare.net/dvodicka/cva-and-csa-reorganization>.

Up-to-date financial information is at <http://carlsbadusdbusiness.blogspot.com>.