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Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Sunny

75°



Saturday

Sunny

74°



Sunday

Sunny

74°



Bay League Swimming Finals



Julia Calish took second in the 100 Fly. Photo by Shelley Kemp, www.kemp.photorelect.com.

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MBUSD Contemplates Which Programs To Reinstate With New Funding

By Tina Steck

Two weeks after the Manhattan Beach City Council approved the emergency payment of \$1.3 million to the Manhattan Beach Unified School District to overcome a \$5 million budget deficit for the 2009/10 school year, the District's trustees and administrators opened up discussion of which educational programs to potentially reinstate. In addition to the City's \$1.3 million payment, the District expects to receive at least \$800,000 in supplemental appeal funding from the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation over and above the \$2.8 million in funding already committed by MBEF.

At the May 6 meeting, a parade of parents, teachers and students addressed the Manhattan Beach School Board, each offering compelling reasons to reinstate a host of core educational programs and bring back some of the teachers who received pink slips in March. However, the Board is not yet in a position to make any decisions about which programs to save from the chopping block.

Board President Nancy Hersman explained that this meeting was an opportunity for the trustees to listen to public comments and discuss among themselves possible program reinstatement scenarios, and that no action would be taken yet on bringing back any programs. The Board is also awaiting the outcome of the May 19 special election which contains five critical budget-related ballot measures. If any of the propositions do not pass, the State of California's revenues will be even lower than estimated and there is concern that Sacramento will make more education cuts.

In addition, the District's final budget for the upcoming 2009/10 school year, due on June 30, hinges on the figures handed down in the State's early June adoption of its revised budget, which would not only take into

account the May 19 election results but also the likelihood of declining State revenues. According to legislative analysts, California revenues are now projected to be at least \$8 billion lower than initially expected when the most recent State budget figures were released in February.

Even in the face of such financial uncertainties, the trustees and administrators heard numerous impassioned pleas from members of the public regarding which programs to reinstate and which pink slips to rescind with the new funds from the City and MBEF.

MBEF President Ellen Rosenberg also offered the Foundation's survey-based priority reinstatement list. "The community has really rallied around our public schools," she

said, while recognizing that "significant and realistic" budget issues still remain. The Ed Foundation "is going to continue to focus on fundamental criteria," with a "K through 12 perspective," Rosenberg added.

MBEF's list of priorities for reinstatement included, for Mira Costa High School, keeping reasonable class sizes and retaining existing sections as much as possible, and keeping the educational advisors and the librarian. For the Middle School, it recommended retaining the librarian and the guidance counselor slated for elimination. At the elementary level, reasonable class sizes for kindergarten through fifth grade (even if a 20 to 1 ratio cannot be

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A Glimpse at Time Passing from Hawaii

By Karen Russo

When John got the itch to go to Hawaii to break up the short dark days of winter, (aren't we picky) I thought, "Egad!" Does that mean a new bathing suit? At this age, trying on bathing suits ranks right up there with the most mortifying of experiences. And believe me, I made cost no issue. Just finding one in which I did not slit my throat was goal enough, achievable only because of the cute wrap skirt that came with it. That and it cost almost three times the rent of our first apartment. John says it is pretty on me, so it's worth every cent. I probably should not have been

so uptight about the whole prospect. Though there were a few glams strutting around, most visitors to Hawaii are a mix of inhumanly skinny Asians and overweight white midwesterners. The standards are not the same as in Manhattan Beach.

Not only has my shape shifted over the years. So has Hawaii's, especially getting there. Like many of you, I imagine, we have been to Hawaii many times. I remember those very first flights where we were given free Mai Tais and lunches on trays with an orchid served by Hawaiian hostesses in colorful muumuus with hibiscus

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