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San Leandro board slashes \$2.7 million

Cost-cutting may affect
about 12 teaching positions

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By Jason Sweeney

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SAN LEANDRO — The Bancroft Middle School gym was filled Tuesday night with students, coaches, librarians and teachers who pleaded with the school board not to cut their programs and jobs.

But the board slashed nearly \$3 million from the San Leandro school district's budget to close a deficit. The plan included increasing class sizes, reducing programs and cutting staff for the next school year.

The district serves approximately 8,700 students in grades K-12 at 12 schools. The budget shortfall this year required cuts of

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SAN LEANDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT CUTS

Item description	Amount
30:1 K-3 class size	\$520,000
Athletics	\$82,250
Campus supervisor (1 full-time equivalent)	\$43,000
Middle school vice principals	\$116,000
Maintenance (1 full-time equivalent)	\$57,450
Custodial staff (6 full-time equivalent)	\$264,000
Site clerical	\$46,000
District office reorganization	\$225,000
Elementary school library/media paraeducator	\$73,000
Staff development days	\$304,000
P.E. elementary prep	\$339,000
Adult education	\$200,000
Legal savings	\$75,000
S. Leandro Management Association furlough	\$50,649
Regional Occupational Program	\$150,000
Deferred maintenance	\$100,000
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act	\$40,000
School safety and violence prevention 8-12	\$27,000
Tier III residual	\$7,300
Total cuts	\$2,719,649

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\$2.7 million from the district's \$49 million unrestricted general fund.

Most significantly, class sizes were increased for kindergarten through the third grade by increasing the current 26-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio to 30 to 1. The class size increase means layoffs for about 12 teachers and a savings of \$520,000.

Around \$82,000 was cut from school athletics, amounting to a 25 percent reduction. San Leandro High School and the district's three middle schools will each decide how the reduction will affect them.

San Leandro High School graduate and former San Jose Earthquakes soccer star Julian Nash told the board how important sports were to his education and career. Student athletes made up a large portion of the crowd in attendance and many told the

board that sports kept them motivated to study and out of trouble when school was out.

Also in attendance were a few dozen adult students who spoke about the importance of San Leandro's adult school, which is losing \$200,000 in funding.

The district is required by law to submit a balanced budget to the county Office of Education by March 15. However, board members were quick to note that the cuts at this point are a procedural exercise and that all could

change when the state Legislature finalizes a budget and the governor signs it.

"No one wants to do these cuts," school board trustee and finance committee Chairwoman Morgan Mack-Rose said. "On the local level, you feel so powerless because we don't have control over our funding. Unless there's real legislative change in Sacramento, it's not going to get better."

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