



Board of Trustee Comments – February 8, 2011

Your classified employees would like to believe it's halftime at Carlsbad Unified School District. We are hurting and we're all wondering what CUSD is going to do to make a comeback and we're all scared because this isn't a game.

Four classified positions have been eliminated, and tonight you are being asked to eliminate 14 more positions. Just because you are eliminating the positions, doesn't mean you have eliminated the work? Who will provide these services to the students? They will also feel these effects. In addition, 10 other positions are being cut in hours, which will not only decrease the amount of income they will earn, it will also drastically increase what they must pay for their medical benefits, further reducing their take-home pay.

Later on this year, you are going to be considering closing two schools. Classified will again bear the majority of these cuts, since the teachers will move to the other schools with their students. We will directly lose an additional 10-15 members. It is very discouraging that a disproportionate share of the cuts being considered are classified, in fact the administrative cuts are all going to be through attrition, not direct cuts like the ones to classified.

We have heard and seen it before.

Prior Boards and our Unions have pulled together. LIUNA has been fighting. We have offered many solutions to this fiscal problem. Yet none of them have been used. We offered a unique plan to create vacancies in our staff, so reorganization and consolidation could reduce expenses, however the Board won't recognize the differences between our proposed plans, and the failed plans of the past.

We've seen a lot of tough eras, a lot of downturns in our life, times when we didn't understand each other.

It seems that we've lost our heart at times.

The fog of division, discord and blame made it hard to see what lies ahead.



But after those trials we are hoping that the Board will rally around us and see what is right and we hope you can act as one with us.

Because that's what we do. We find a way through tough times and if we can't find a way, then we'll make one.

All that matters now is what's ahead. How do we come from behind? How do we come together? How do we save jobs? And how do we go on with the important task of educating the students of Carlsbad?

Others are showing us it can be done. And what's true about them is true about all of us.

This school district can't be knocked out with one punch. We get right back up again and when we do the city is going to hear the roar of our engines.

Yeah, it's halftime CUSD and our second half is about to begin.