



# Contact

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## Board of Education Reveals Priorities for District New Policy Requires 5X the Required Reserve

The Board of Education has chosen to spend State allocated funds as far away from the classroom as possible. The school year began with Superintendent Susanna Contreras Smith and Chief Financial Operating Officer Cleve Pell receiving massive double digit raises. The New Year began with the Board increasing reserves. The net result is the **highest compensated employees are the only ones who received raises, and the unprecedented increase in revenue to the district is held in reserves rather than being spent on education.**

The Agenda for the Board of Education meeting Thursday, January 21 did not include a new board policy that requires a 15 percent reserve.

- **All five Board Members voted for the 15 percent reserves in the consent agenda.** This single action could mean **\$35 million or more sitting in a bank account while classroom needs are unmet.**
- Members of the Executive Committee attended the meeting and spoke to the importance of working collaboratively to settle in negotiation.
- Resolution No. 15 (2015-16) was not discussed by any Board member at the meeting.
- The written policy was not available to your representatives before or during the meeting. Upon discovery of the action, the Association found a 24 page packet held by the Board members and now available at [montbelloteachers.org](http://montbelloteachers.org).

## Legislature Passed Law to Hold the District to 6%

- In June 2014 the legislature passed Senate Bill 858 which limits the amount of money a school district can hold in reserve to twice the minimum requirement. Since the Montebello Unified School District is required to maintain a reserve for economic uncertainty that is 3 percent of the budget, the maximum is placed at 6 percent.
- The reserve cap will be triggered when the state meets its Rainy Day Fund requirement.
- **The reason for the law is that taxpayer dollars need to be spent in our classrooms and on our children. These funds should not be sitting in bank accounts.**

## Board Lacks Transparency as Brown Act Is Violated

- The Board of Education added agenda items 8f and 8g to the agenda but failed to honor the 72 hour required posting. Resolution 14 authorizes the issuances of bonds, and Resolution 15 establishes the 15 percent reserve.
- District Council misinformed the Board and put the District at risk of litigation by adding the two lengthy agenda items at the beginning of the meeting.
- According to the Brown Act two findings must be met to add an agenda item after the 72 hour posting requirement. **First the issue would have had to come after the posting of the agenda. And, second the Board must demonstrate the action cannot wait until the next meeting. Neither finding was met.**