

# Galileo Academy of Science and Technology



1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 749-3430

Mr. Myong Leigh  
Deputy Superintendent  
Policy and Operations

Dear Mr. Leigh:

The Galileo Academy of Science and Technology's School Site Council (SSC) is comprised of parent, student, teacher, and administrative representatives per the SFSUSD and SF State Guidelines. As you know one of the main objectives of the SSC is to advise the school regarding the planning, budgeting, implementation and evaluation of the School Site Plan.

In its review and approval of the SY 13-14 budget, the SSC is requesting clarification to understand the reductions to the preliminary budget figures provided by the district last Spring. The SSC had many difficult decisions to make due to a budget reduction from the SY 12-13 budget allocation. With the passage of Proposition 30, it was disappointing to still have to make rounds of cuts. However we submitted a balanced budget in good faith that the district would honor the Spring budget allocation. We were deeply disappointed to discover the following differences in the Final Fall Allocation:

1. A reduction of base funding per student by \$38.66. This represents a reduction of \$77,011.00 which negatively impacts the quality the education the school can provide to the 1,992 students in our care.
2. A \$50,000 "buffer" reduction. The Spring budget instructions included no mention of a potential "buffer" cut to the Fall allocation. Had the SSC understood that this was a possibility, our budget planning process would have taken this into consideration.

While the Fall budget allocation did include an additional, \$107,068.00, this amount is *not* an increase since it represents additional funds needed to support 31 additional students. Additionally, the increase to the AP funding is based on the UESF contract and is in line with past district practices. During the Spring budgeting process, we took both of these practices into account. The unexpected reductions listed above have resulted in an overall reduction of \$127,011.00 from the Spring allocation to the Fall allocation.

In light of the promises made by the district when encouraging parents and other stakeholders to support Proposition 30, we are concerned that the District is making budget allocation decisions that are not transparent and without a clear process.

We would very much appreciate an explanation of the rationale behind these two new policies as well as an explanation as to why these pieces of critical information (ie: the possibility of a decrease in per pupil spending and a "buffer" reduction) were not provided to school site councils during the Spring budgeting process. Without this information, it was impossible for the members of the SSC to provide adequate guidance during the budgeting process.

We look forward to your response.

Signed by :

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