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PRESS RELEASE

March 3, 2009

Lammersville Elementary School District Wins an Appeal for New Construction Funding at the State Allocation Board

On February 25, 2009, the Lammersville Elementary School District was successful in convincing the State Allocation Board that, although they had missed submission of the one form for State Matching Funds, they had completed all elements of the project necessary, including obtaining costly and timely California Department of Education and Department of Toxic Substance Control approvals, which are necessary for locally funded schools. The SAB Board ruled that under the Doctrine of Substantial Compliance, brought forward by Legislative Counsel – the independent counsel for the Legislature - they could approve the appeal. This state ruling allows the District to be reimbursed over \$6.6 million dollars in state construction funding for the Bethany School project.

This issue has been pending since 2007, as state regulation requires a district to submit a funding application prior to occupancy of the school. The district brought the issue forward to the State Allocation Board (an appeals board) because they had been diligent in submitting all required forms and meeting all other requirements of the program.

Assembly Member Joan Buchanan, was very instrumental in advocating for the school district before her colleagues on the State Allocation Board. She articulately framed all aspects of the issue and support for the community she represents. Superintendent Dale Hansen said, "Assembly Member Buchanan was the key to our success. Her clear explanation and determination to support the Mountain House Community clearly got the attention of the State Allocation Board."

The funding received from the state will be used to begin the design of Altamont School in the Mountain House community, and will allow the successful public/private partnership in the development of neighborhood schools to continue.

Please contact Assembly Member Buchanan's Chief of Staff, Michelle Henry at (925) 389-7451 Fifteenth Assembly District