CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 7

MEETING DATE: Thursday, July 28, 2011

AGENDA ITEM #: 12 C

ITEM:
LETTER ON THE LIBRARY BUDGET FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commissioners will discuss the letter that was sent to them from Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools.
May 19, 2011

Barbara Flynn
County Librarian
1750 Oak Park Boulevard
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Barbara:

I want to thank you for sharing with the Commission the most recent budgets for the County Library and the proposed 2011/12 annual budget. I was surprised to see that all the significant budget reductions of staff occurred at the community library level. The reductions affected all levels of staff within the County Library system with the exception of the three deputy-positions. When Janet Hildebrand retired as deputy, the position was left vacant...until now. It is my understanding that her position is now posted and recruitment is underway to fill it. As County Superintendent, I, too, needed to reduce staff to meet our reduced budget. I eliminated the deputy superintendent position and eliminated one associate superintendent position. As public service leaders, it is important to not shelter positions that are direct reports to us at the cost of fewer services to our communities. I would ask you to reconsider your current posting for another deputy and redirect the savings to the community libraries that directly serve our citizens. The communities without the luxury of well-funded foundations or citizens with economic means to underwrite core library services and staff should be the recipients of this funding. Community libraries in Antioch, Brentwood, El Sobrante, Bay Point, Pinole, and Pleasant Hill among others should be considered.

Lastly, the money could be used to purchase a database, such as EBSCO, to serve the education and/or informational needs of our youth and adult patrons, since all database expenditures have been omitted in the current proposed budget.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Contra Costa County

JAO:ldh

cc: Contra Costa County Library Commission
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
David Twa, County Administrator