23 faculty, staff likely to get ax

College bracing for funding shortfall

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APTOS — Cabrillo College has less than four months to trim $2.5 million from this year’s budget and, to the dismay of faculty and staff, some of those cuts will come in the form of layoffs.

At Monday’s meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to issue notices to five faculty members and two directors that their employment contracts may not be renewed in 2012-13. Those notices are due by March 25, with a final decision expected to be made by May 15.

The board also agreed to reduce services at the Stroke and Disability Center, meaning those faculty members — the mobility and speech language instructors and a counselor — will be reassigned.

About a dozen people attended the meeting to listen in on the board’s discussions about cuts at the Children’s Center, which has a staff of four. The board will vote April 6 on a 2012-13 reduction plan that includes saving more than $86,000 by laying off the center’s director, James Marshall.

Bonnie Aldridge, a master teacher at the Children’s Center, reminded the board that he’s the latest in a long string of directors in recent years, and that constantly changing leadership is detrimental to the center’s continuity and stability.

“The core of our center is our director,” who has shown vision, leadership and ability to listen to students, parents and staff, she said.

The midyear budget cuts announced in January came as no surprise to administrators, who already anticipated Cabrillo’s share of the cut at $1 million and planned to allocate funds from its reserves.

Then came last month’s so-called “February surprise,” when the state’s 112 community colleges learned of an additional $49 million in cuts. For Cabrillo, that’s about $1.5 million.

Board members voted Monday to cover the bulk of that by again dipping into reserves.

Cabrillo faces a $5.5 million deficit going into 2012-13, but administrators hope to bring that down to $2.5 million by dipping into reserves, tapping other funds and eliminating