

Keeping CUEA members informed during the bargaining process.

This publication, and others to follow, is produced by the CUEA Bargaining Support Team, chaired by Vicki Soderberg, past CUEA president, with the intent of supporting the work of the CUEA Bargaining Team, chaired by Joy Schnapper, as they negotiate a fair and equitable contract with CUSD. Our purpose is to provide members with important fiscal information.

“Help Wanted: Orange County faces a teacher drought”



This is the headline from last weekend’s *Orange County Register*. According to the article, for this school year alone, California school districts need to fill 21,500 teaching positions, but the state has issued fewer than 15,000 new credentials. Exacerbating the situation is the fact that about one-third of the current teaching workforce is nearing retirement age, according to CTA.

Nothing illustrates better the fierce competition for teachers as when Los Angeles Unified School District sent recruiters to last fall’s UCI’s orientation week to enlist prospective teachers for LAUSD.

What does this mean for CUSD?

CUSD **must** offer competitive salaries not only to recruit teachers, but also to retain our new-to-mid level career teachers in order to keep them from leaving to higher paying school districts.

More money due to CUSD

Approximately \$3.3 billion in additional tax revenues have been collected this current fiscal year (July 2015—June 2016) than projected when the current state budget was approved last June. Thus, the governor has included one-time funding appropriations in the amount to \$1.2 billion for California school districts to use however they see fit. At this writing, it is unknown how much exactly would be received by CUSD, or how that new money will be spent.



Three things you should know about the governor’s budget

- (1) The entire education budget (as per Prop 98, approximately 40% of the State General Fund) increased to \$71.6 billion from \$68.4 billion this school year. The increase in funding is due to the ongoing state-wide economic recovery as well as Prop 30 tax revenues.
- (2) Ahead of schedule, Governor Brown proposed more money for the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The LCFF determines how much each district receives from the state education budget. The LCFF was expected to be fully funded by 2020/2021 school year, but with the infusion of new money it will be funded up to 95% in the upcoming 2016/17 school year.
- (3) The governor proposed an additional \$2 billion to the state’s “Rainy Day Fund” bringing the balance to 62% of its constitutional target, rather than the 48% required by this point in time. The purpose of the “Rainy Day Fund” is to eliminate deep cuts to education and other funding as was experience in the past few years of economic recession.



Is anybody listening?

After every school board meeting, the district posts an online “Board Brief” summarizing the events of the meeting. In the December 9 edition, under “Citizens address the board,” it was noted that a speaker addressed the Board asking for “better recognition of CUSD employee anniversaries.”

The truth of the matter is that speaker, Steve Yancey, a CVHS teacher, spoke to the board about the fact that CUSD salaries are one of the lowest among 12 Orange County Unified School Districts. He spoke of the need to have salaries commensurate with other districts. At the end of his speech, he *did* mention the fact that there could be better recognition of long-time employee service to CUSD, but that was *not* the point of his remarks.



The fact the “Board Briefs” failed to accurately summarize Mr. Yancey remarks make us wonder...is anybody listening to teachers?

CUEA “Family Field Trips” to School Board Meetings

Wednesday, January 13—Dana Hills Family

DHHS, NHMS, MFMS, Crown Valley, R.H. Dana, R.H. Dana ENF, Del Obispo, Hidden Hills, Malcom, Moulton, George White

Wednesday, January 27—San Clemente High Family

SCHS, BAMS, SMS, Vista del Mar Elem/Middle, Benedict, Concordia, Las Palmas, Lobo, Marblehead, Palisades

Wednesday, February 10—San Juan Hills High Family

SJHS, Serra High, Ladera Ranch Elem/Middle, Ambuehl, Kinoshita, Oso Grande, San Juan, Cal Prep Academy, Capo Virtual

Wednesday, February 24—Tesoro High Family

THS, Las Flores Elem/Middle, Arroyo Vista Elem/Middle, Chaparral, Tijeras Creek, Wagon Wheel

Attend the meeting that best suits your schedule—Specialists Family

Speech Pathologists, Health Services, Psychologists, Counselors, Block Music, TOSAs, Adult Transitions

Contact Us

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Next Bargaining Sessions:
January 13 & January 22

