



Teachers Association of Long Beach, CTA/NEA

4362 ATLANTIC AVENUE • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90807-2818

TELEPHONE: (562) 426-6433 • FAX: (562) 424-9352

Web Site: www.talb.org

UPDATE

January 11, 2010

BARGAINING STARTS THIS WEEK *SOME SITE MANAGERS MUDDY THE WATERS*

Negotiations are scheduled on January 14, 22 and February 3, 11, and 18. Continued pressure on the District due to budget cuts combined with their proposals to cut salaries and benefits are sure to challenge our bargaining team and require the solidarity of our members.

The good news is that last year's negotiations, albeit difficult, were conducted in a climate of mutual respect and fairness. The bad news (besides the school funding cuts) is that we are getting sporadic reports that some site level managers have already been creating discord with inappropriate statements about upcoming negotiations.

In advance of bargaining, our members report that some Principals are attempting to influence or interfere with negotiations by advising TALB members that they should lobby TALB to agree to unpaid "furloughs" (furlough is not really an accurate term, they really mean a shortened school year). In some cases this interference is overt, with direct pressure applied to TALB members. Mostly it is subtle and involves an informal conversation with a small group, or a vague reference in a staff meeting. Such tactics are considered "unfair" by the state agency that helps monitor and enforce laws governing public sector bargaining.

These administrative "conversations" are also strange considering we have not yet started to bargain and the District has not made any specific proposals. They may be in response to the strong response to our bargaining survey earlier in the year. They may be the rogue and random acts of a few site managers acting independently of LBUSD. Regardless, such tactics are unfortunate since they don't promote an agreement and the misinformation leaves out the fact that so-called "furloughs" not only shorten the school year; they decrease pay, and retirement.

Why would the LBUSD even propose furloughs or *any* pay cuts for classroom/school based employees **before** imposing other cuts, including true furloughs for administrators who are not school based and *already* work a much longer year (and at higher pay) than classroom/school based employees? This would both save money and avoid a cut in the school year altogether. Recall last year, the District proposed a cut to the Head Start teacher work year, but withdrew the proposal when asked to defend the fact that administrators associated with the program were working (and getting paid) for often more than 20 days beyond the instructional year.

Bargaining this year will be hard enough based on the economic situation. We will have legitimate disagreements with the District over how to prioritize spending with limited resources. Coming off very difficult, but mutually respectful negotiations last year, we hope the District will not make a practice of interfering with the "good faith" that will be required to resolve this year's contract.

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MLK PARADE

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

The annual Martin Luther King Parade will be held on Saturday, January 16th, 2010. We are encouraging all TALB members to participate in the parade. As local teachers, nurses, and librarians, we want to honor Dr. King and show solidarity with our local community union members.

Please consider volunteering to walk in the parade. It will require only a few hours of your time. The experience is uplifting.

The parade starts at 10AM on Saturday, January 16, 2010. Parking will be available at Long Beach City College (Pacific Coast Highway) parking lot (enter at Orange and 19th). Shuttle service from the parking lot to the start of the parade is provided from 8:00AM – 10:30AM, but it is a good idea to plan on arriving no later than 9:30AM to get a shuttle to the staging area. The parade ends back at MLK Park, right by the parking lot area. To sign-up call Vonnie Marino at 562-426-6433, or email vmarino@talb.org.

MINORITY AT LARGE RUN OFF ELECTION

The results from the Minority at Large Election are as follows:

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|--------------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. Rosa E. Diaz | 41 | (5.85%) |
| 2. Dr. George Garcia (run-off) | 295 | (42.08%) |
| 3. Anselmo Feliciano (run-off) | 340 | (48.50%) |

TALB bylaws require a majority vote for BOD elections. Failing that, the bylaws call for a run-off election to determine a winner.

Ballots for the run-off will be distributed at the January 26, 2010, Representative Council meeting.

Ballots are due at the TALB office no later than 4:30 on Friday, February 5, 2010. Ballots that are received late will not be counted.

Ballots will be counted on Saturday, February 6th, 2010. Results of the elections will be posted at www.talb.org on Tuesday, February 9th. (Monday, February 8th is a holiday - Lincoln's Birthday)

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

JOHN MCGINNIS ELECTED TO DISTRICT 3 BOE SEAT

John McGinnis was elected to fill the BOE District 3 seat. Mr. McGinnis prevailed over four challengers to win the seat (which will be up for election again in April). Mr. McGinnis is a retired teacher, librarian, and community college administrator. TALB congratulates Mr. McGinnis on his successful election and looks forward to working with him as a LBUSD BOE member.

WWW.TALB.ORG ♦ 562-426-6433