



In Between...



Moreno Valley Education Association



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Volume 8, Issue 9, May 4, 2009



Members Approve Tentative Agreement

The MVEA Election Committee announced on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, that the 2 year tentative agreement passed by an overwhelming majority. The Agreement provides a primary class size of 22:1 rather than the 27:1 originally proposed by the District, maintains the current salary schedule including step and column, and provides that the District will pick up half of the new out of pocket benefits' cost. The School Board must still ratify the Contract on May 12, 2009. The impact: the number of layoff positions will be decreased by approximately 95.

Retirement Package Deadline Extended!

The number of retirees as a result of the supplemental retirement package offer is VERY close to the amount of people needed to make the plan cost neutral or cost effective. For this reason, the District and Association have agreed to extend the deadline. MVEA has heard that a few people could not get an appointment with an STRS counselor and has asked the District to arrange another time for STRS counselors. MVEA is hopeful that the retirement package will meet its numbers. THIS IS VOLUNTARY. NO ONE SHOULD FEEL PRESSURED TO RETIRE.

District Expands Interventions while Laying Off Counselors and Reducing OCS Program

At the April 30 School Board meeting, President MacMillan strongly urged the Board to stop the District from spending money on interventions while at the same time laying off the very people or reducing the very programs that currently provide interventions for our students. MacMillan spoke about the stimulus monies and how they are, according to the Federal Act, to spend funds quickly to save/create jobs and to improve student achievement. She not only urged the District to retain Counselors and OCS programs, but she also reminded them of the budget committees in place and how the District should be transparent and inclusive in its discussions regarding categorical positions.

Darcel Cannady-Jamerson, Counselor at Sunnymead and Hendrick Ranch, also reminded the Board that counselors not only conduct academic and career interventions but most importantly, they conduct-emotional social interventions that assist children in learning. She asked the Board to remember Frederick Douglas' words, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." She concluded, "Our counselors are the essential core program."



Site Plans Making a Difference

The Contract is only one piece of a large economic puzzle. MVEA continues to lobby for the return of Counselors, the OCS program, and all other positions as money allows. With the beginning of the influx of the federal stimulus money into the District, sites are considering bringing back positions such as EL specialists and counselors although the District administration is discouraging using these funds on personnel. The Board has approved some of the plans. **MVEA encourages all members to work together to plan a strong academic program while bringing back educators who can make that happen.**



May 19 Election Affects You: Make a Difference! Call now!

A few hours may make a BIG difference for you and your colleagues! Come to the MVEA office on Monday through Thursday afternoons between 4:30 and 7:00 to help with this campaign. Enjoy snacks and a light dinner. Win prizes!

- You can call. CTA has sent new Robo phones. You don't even have to dial the numbers. The message is short. Calls are currently being made to CTA members.
- If calling isn't your thing, write letters to the editor, make signs for the rally or help with stuffing envelopes.

If the propositions go down to defeat, there will be more State budget woes that could result in more cuts!

**Please make a difference for yourself and your colleagues.
Less money hurts!**

RIF Hearings Held on April 29-30th

The two long days of RIF hearings were preceded by weeks of work by MVEA's Executive Director, Ann Adler. She reviewed the information provided in writing by the RIFed educators, conducted individual interviews, researched information on members' concerns and kept our attorneys informed of all issues to be considered. As a result 6 people moved off the RIF list and 6 changes in seniority dates were made due to research and/or testimony at the hearings. The administrative law judge (ALJ) will rule on numerous other situations where educators gave testimony, but the District did not readily agree to the changes. The judge must rule by May 7. Educators will either receive final notices of reduction in force or their RIFs will be rescinded prior to May 15. This does not preclude the District from bringing back people after that date by seniority into positions for which they are qualified.

State Schools Chief Jack O'Connell Urges Calm and Precaution Over Swine Flu Outbreak

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell urged schools and child care agencies to redouble their efforts to teach flu prevention strategies, and to review and update their school safety plans in light of the current swine flu outbreak. His thoughts are below.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are currently advising that local health officers may recommend closure of specific school sites if there are confirmed cases of students or staff having the swine flu. O'Connell urged local district superintendents and school health officials to stay in close communication with local health officials during the swine flu outbreak.

O'Connell stressed that precaution remains the best course of action to prevent the spread of the swine flu or any illness at school. ***Students should wash hands often with soap, cover their coughs and sneezes, and avoid contact with students who appear ill. Also, if parents suspect their child is ill, they should keep the child at home and seek medical care.*** CDE and CDPH developed a free "Keep Our Schools Healthy" information tool kit containing six posters in multiple languages on how to avoid the spread of germs and viruses. The posters may be downloaded from the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/148645>.

