



# In Between...



## Moreno Valley Education Association



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Volume 8, Issue 12, June 8, 2009



## Topsy-Turvy: What's What before Leaving for Summer? Q and A

### **Q1. Do we have a Contract in place?**

A1. Yes. Members ratified a Contract by 87.6% in favor of the following:

- 22:1 class size at 1-3
- Salary remains the same but includes '09 -10 step and column
- District to pay half of out of pocket benefit increase
- District to reinstate as many positions as possible given budget constraints
- Return to the table if the District's projected revenue exceeds or is less than 2nd interim assumptions

### **Q2. How bad is the state budget crisis?**

A2. It is an UNPRECEDENTED CATASTROPHY and will hurt all state and public services and employees. If the Legislature does not act prior to June 30, the state will run OUT OF MONEY! The state, **since adopting its 08-09 and 09-10 balanced budgets**, now has a **\$23 billion deficit**.

### **Q3. Has the state deficit changed since MVEA and the District reached agreement and voted on the contract?**

A3. Yes. At that time there was a balanced state budget. Then 2 things happened. Propositions 1A-1E did not pass on May 19 and state revenues have come in lower than projected.

### **Q4. Has the state budget deficit impacted the District's budget?**

A4. Yes and No. Officially, there still is a state budget in place, the same one upon which the District and Association built their agreement. As of today, the District has a positive budget, the highest grade possible with the state. The Governor is PROPOSING more massive cuts which include public schools. Over three years that would be a total of more than \$60 million in cuts from students and programs in Moreno Valley Unified. For next year, Business Services projects another \$23M deficit if the Governor's proposals are enacted as legislation.

### **Q5. Where does this leave us in terms of the RIFs and the Agreement?**

A5. MVEA believes that an Agreement ratified by the members and the School Board should be implemented. MVEA has been demanding that the District bring back the 96 class size reduction people, replace those who have retired, and bring back as many counselors and other positions as money allows. At the same time, your Executive Board and Negotiation Team are searching **all other options** to address the District's deficit.

### **Q6. What could other options include?**

A6. They could include anything and everything to keep the District afloat including using stimulus and other monies, furloughs, and even for the future, raising class size.

**Q7. Would a 3% pay cut solve the problem as some say?**

A7. Nope. That would not be enough to solve the budget deficit. It would equal about \$6M toward the \$21.5M deficit predicted by Business Services if all units took the cut.

**Q8. How much stimulus money is there?**

A8. The District has received more than \$9M stabilization money and \$2M of the additional Title 1 funds. An appropriation of more than \$7M for special education, 3 of which can be used for general fund money to help offset the deficit is also expected. The District will receive close to \$3M more in Title 1 money that is in excess of its normal allotment. Title I regulations remain the same so the funding is restricted. However, counselors, intervention teachers, and other staff can be funded through Title I if included in the Single Plan.

**Q9. Is the stimulus money enough to offset the deficit?**

A9. NO! You do the math! Even if one used ALL the available non-restricted stimulus money AT ONCE, which is not really ideal, it would merely equal \$12M of the more than \$21M projected as a deficit by the District.



**Q10. What happens to those employees who must move positions?**

A10. For those who must be moved from department, grade level, or site, there is an involuntary transfer procedure in the contract which is Article XXI, and **it must be followed**. It can be found in the Contract on page 43. Bottom line is that people may only be placed in vacancies. Out of ratio teachers may not “bump” into positions but may move into vacancies.

**Q11. For those who received pink slips and are brought back, what is the process?**

A11. The District may only bring people back in seniority order to a position for which they are qualified. For example, the District is currently filling math positions. The employees who were rified and have a math authorization or supplemental credential are being returned to middle school positions in math but in seniority order only. This will be the process for any other pink-slipped employees who are returned to the classroom.

**Q12. Are teachers who are being laid-off eligible for health coverage and unemployment insurance?**

A12. Yes. Educators who are RIFFed or non-reelected may apply for unemployment the day after their job ends. Educators who are laid-off or have resigned *in lieu of termination* are eligible for health insurance called COBRA. Please contact your local unemployment office for unemployment benefits and contact Risk Management (ext. 17223) for information on COBRA.

**Q13. Can educators who were laid off substitute?**

A13. Yes, and in fact, if they substitute for 21 days in a 60 day period are retroactively entitled to their previous daily rate. The District must use seniority daily when asking people if they wish to substitute. MVEA encourages those of you who wish to substitute for the 09-10 school year to contact Human Resources to assure that you are in the substitute queue.

**Despite the horrible, horrible news, MVEA is here to support you. We are working hard to monitor the RIF “recall” process and enforce consistency in the application of the contract. Sometimes the answers are not popular but they are consistent. Both the District and the Association are in agreement about the contractual procedures and are working together on the “recall” process to assure that seniority is followed. We regret that this process does pit one employee of our bargaining unit against another.**

**Please have an enjoyable summer! Think good thoughts!**