

MVEA

In Between...BUDGET ALERT

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Moreno Valley Education Association

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School Board Votes to RIF 21 Unit Members

After postponing action on the reductions from the MVEA bargaining unit until the next meeting, the School Board on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, voted to RIF the following employees:

Reductions/Eliminations Recommended by Superintendent/Cabinet

Reductions/Eliminations **APPROVED** by the Board

- ✦9-12 Work Experience teachers: 2
- ✦K-6 Categorical PE teachers: 4
- ✦K-5 Counselors: 7
- ✦Categorical Counselors: 3
- ✦Categorical Title 1 Teacher: 1.1
- ✦Categorical English Teachers: 2
- ✦Categorical Math Teachers: 2

Reductions/Eliminations **NOT APPROVED** by the Board

- ✦6-12 Home Ec./Consumer Sci. teachers: 5 (no savings)
 - ✦6-8 Art teachers: 5 (no savings)
 - ✦9-12 Art teachers: 4 (no savings)
 - ✦Categorical Counselors: 2
 - ✦Categorically-funded EL Specialists: 15
- THESE POSITIONS ARE NOT CUT!**

Members impacted by RIFs will receive a final notice from the District by May 15, 2008 unless the state issues a reprieve or funds are found. If a State budget is reached after May, and the amount of money the District receives is more than expected, employees would be hired back in reverse order based on their seniority and the availability of positions for which they are qualified.

The Board also approved lay-offs for three 8-hour classified positions. No positions in administration were reduced or eliminated.

MVEA MEETING FOR “NOTICED EMPLOYEES” ATTENDANCE VITALLY IMPORTANT!!!

All who are affected are entitled to a hearing as long as they have filled out the appropriate forms. MVEA will hold a meeting to advise members of their rights under the law and distribute the necessary forms. **ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED NOTICES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING at the Sunnymead Middle School Staff Development Room at 4 PM on Tuesday, March 18, 2008.** Use the Eucalyptus Street entrance.

Clearing Up ANY Confusion

MVEA has received emails and calls asking if MVEA leadership agreed to any of the proposed RIF positions. The answer is an unequivocal **NO**. It is not clear to MVEA how or why these rumors start. In two cases, it was reported by principals, not members of CAMM. What they said was simply not true. MVEA has worked with members of CAMM to make reductions **AWAY FROM THE STUDENTS** which includes **NOT RIFing** members from our bargaining unit. Any positions placed on the RIF list were decided by the Superintendent and her Cabinet and then recommended to the Board for a vote. These are difficult times for everyone. Let's hang together. If you have questions or hear something out of line, please give MVEA a call. Together, we shall prevail.

Board Held Saturday Meeting To Discuss EL Program

On Saturday, March 8, 2008, Educators, including many EL Specialists, and community members, again filled the MVUSD Boardroom, this time to hear about the EL program in Moreno Valley public schools. Betsy Sample, EL Director Bilingual Services, shared the findings of the State Compliance Review from last year. There were 4 areas cited as out of compliance: EL Authorization, Staff Development, Catch-up Plan/Intervention, and Use of Resources. Ms. Sample asserted that some members of the EL Consult, that had been occurring this year involving MVEA and District representatives, had expressed a desire to distribute the EIA-LEP money to the sites to let each site decide how to use those monies. That would, of course, change the EL Specialist program to a site, rather than District, program. Further, sites would only use EL specialists or coaches if the site incorporated that idea in its required plan.

Two principals, Melissa Bazanos and Jeff Jones, spoke for returning all EIA-LEP funds to the schools to be used to provide a site EL program. Superintendent Lagrosa also spoke in favor of serving the EL students differently by developing an intervention model at each school that is specific to that site. The Title 1 facilitator at Edgemont supported diverting funds to the site level and explained how that benefits the student program at Edgemont.

President MacMillan objected to the District's recommendations because the Consult had not been completed. The Consult was working on changing the job description of the EL Specialists to make the program more student-focused and comply with the findings of the Compliance Review. According to MacMillan, the Consult abruptly ended and next, the EL Specialists suddenly appeared on the RIF list, a move that would not save the District any money, but rather, redistributes current funds. According to MacMillan, this move by the District dishonors the Consult process. It will also allow the larger schools to purchase EL Coaches or create other positions, while the smaller schools will have fewer resources for their EL students. Pete Loza, an ELD teacher and EL Specialist at Moreno Valley High School, reminded people of the days when Lau vs. Nichols finally forced public schools to provide effective and efficient programs for EL students. He worried that placing monies at the site level would not guarantee a program for the second language learners in Moreno Valley. Many parents spoke in Spanish, all of whom asked that the EL Specialist program remain intact. The final decision of the Board on March 11, 2008 was **NOT to eliminate** the EL Specialist positions.

MVUSD ASKS TO CANCEL BARGAINING ON ONEROUS PROPOSALS

The District who did a "demand to bargain" on major issues such as raising secondary class size, freezing step and column, reducing the work year, and increasing employee health care contributions, asked to cancel bargaining for March 11. MVEA agreed, having said all along that we have helped find \$10.3 million, and that is enough until there is more data from the State.



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NOW to spare public education at www.cta.org. Go to "Budget Crisis" and click on "Tell your lawmaker..." Type in your zip code and your legislator will pop up. Then email your legislator using the canned message or your own message about not devastating our schools. **Or write your legislator! NOW!**