



In Between...



Moreno Valley Education Association

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School Board Votes 5 – 0 YES on Tentative Agreement

At the May 12, 2009 School Board meeting, the Board members considered the tentative agreement signed off by the Association and the District. When they returned to open session, all 5 Board members voted in favor the tentative agreement. Therefore, the April 21, 2009 agreement is now in effect.



Administrative Law Judge Report Approved In Its Entirety

There had been rumors that the District was going to debate some of the law judge's findings, but in the end the School Board adopted the administrative law judge report as it was written. This returns 7 teachers to the classroom who were given notices but have since had date changes that remove them from the list and another teacher and counselor, one of whom is now NCLB compliant and the other of whom did not receive the original notice. The District is also continuing to research dates and units that were in question.

District Issues Lay-Off Notices

The District is issuing lay-off notices to all RIFs before bringing back employees. This is based on the District's legal counsel's advice. It is MVEA's understanding that the class size reduction "recall" will then take place. MVEA is already meeting with the District to monitor how bargaining unit members will be brought back for the class size 22:1 provisions. MVEA has not yet met to discuss the impact of the retirement incentive plan. Hoping that the state budget does not worsen even more, the District and the Association would next look at the impact of the retirement incentive.

Retirement Supplemental Plan "A Go"

88 people signed up for the supplemental retirement plan (SRP) by the May 8 deadline. While this is less than the desired 96, the company has run the numbers and there is still a savings to the District of approximately \$200,000. The District and Association have agreed that because it is a financial as well as people savings, that the SRP will be allowed. Congratulations to those who applied and thank you for helping your less senior colleagues!

How Are Riffed Employees Returned?

A simplistic explanation regarding the RIF recalls is that bargaining unit members are returned according to seniority and credential. MVEA is working with the District to review each situation to guarantee that the process is followed. For permanent educators, the District must continue to return them to positions for which they are qualified for up to 39 months and for probationary educators, up to 24 months. As much as possible, the District will attempt to place people back at their original sites, and then follow Article XXI-Transfers for any necessary involuntary moves. For counselors and EL specialists, it would be a similar process by seniority. It is a lot more complicated than it sounds, and when actual recall begins, MVEA will put out guidelines regarding the transfer process.

Some salient points for involuntary transfers:

Before involuntary transfers, an administrator must ask for volunteers first.

Prior to an involuntary transfer from one site to another, an employee is to be given the opportunity to meet with a Human Resources Division designee to discuss the impending transfer.

Prior to an involuntary transfer from one site to another, an employee, upon request, will be given written reasons for the impending transfer.

If a grade level is losing a person, it shall be the person with least seniority at the grade level.

If a site is losing a person, it shall be the person with the least seniority, all else being equal.

A person who was previously transferred is protected for 2 years. Appropriate credentials are necessary for ACS and special education classes.

If a position opens at a site from which an involuntary transfer has occurred, the involuntarily transferred employee may have the first option of returning to the site.

If a program (i.e. GATE, Special Education) is transferred from one site to another, a unit member currently assigned to the program involved in a transfer will remain with the program if he/she so chooses and has satisfactory evaluations.

Interns or temporary employees are not included in this contract article.

When this movement begins to happen, MVEA will send out guidelines. Some cases are more complex than others and may need to be analyzed by MVEA and Human Resources to determine the correct way to determine who must leave. We will work with you as this process happens.



State Budget a Worse Mess!!!

As of May 11, the Governor disclosed that California's projected budget deficit has grown as large as \$21.3 billion through next June due to a sharp economic decline. The latest projection means lawmakers will consider deep spending cuts that in addition to other services include education.

The State Department of Finance has projected a budget gap of \$15.4 billion if the May 19 special election ballot measures pass and \$21.3 billion if they fail. The state would gain nearly \$6 billion in solutions if Propositions 1C, 1D and 1E pass; including \$5 billion in 1C's borrowing against the California Lottery. This is clearly not good for the state or local entities including our own District.

As we go to print, Governor Schwarzenegger is expected to present two versions of his revised May budget today, one that brings the \$15.4 billion deficit into balance and another that solves the \$21.3 billion problem.

It is critical that members understand that if the budget is substantially different, either the District or the Association may request to go back to the negotiation table. PLEASE VOTE YES. SAVE JOBS!