

UTLA BARGAINING



No. 13 April 24, 2007

Back in negotiations already?

Even though it seems like the ink is barely dry on the new LAUSD-UTLA contract, UTLA will be heading back into negotiations with the District in these key areas:

Fighting for your health benefits

UTLA will present our initial health benefits proposal—which is to keep coverage at the current levels—to the School Board April 24. We predict that once again we will face a stiff fight from the District to make cuts to offset increased costs (the projected increase is more than \$80 million). If the District rejects our proposal, we will go into coordinated bargaining with the other LAUSD employee unions.

Pressing for salary increase and improvements to your working conditions

The new contract agreement includes “reopeners” on health benefits and salary and two additional items in the second year of the contract. (We get four reopeners in the third year, when our contract expiration will align with two other LAUSD unions, giving us even more leverage at the table.) UTLA will determine our salary increase proposal based on a number of factors, such as the amount of the COLA (cost of living adjustment) coming from the state, any legislation that may bring funding to the District, and the total loss of ADA (average daily attendance)

funds due to LAUSD’s declining enrollment. UTLA must decide which two contract articles (in addition to salary and benefits) to negotiate by mid-May. This decision will be made by looking at the past bargaining package, results from the area surveys, and the extensive school-based issues campaign we ran last spring, when each UTLA site had an opportunity to prioritize its concerns. The House of Representatives will determine these demands on May 2.

“Living contract” keeps fight alive for more improvements

The new agreement creates a “living contract,” in which a joint UTLA/District committee can reach tentative agreements (subject to UTLA member ratification and District approval) on additional items. The top priorities are to make improvements to working conditions for adult educators, health and human services professionals, and early childhood education teachers. The contract agreement also creates a Joint Class Size Task Force charged with monitoring current District class-size reduction obligations and making recommendations for further reductions. Lowering our huge physical education class sizes is at the top of the list. A Counselor Task Force will deal with counselor issues, such as the lack of due process, and a revived Professional Development Advisory Committee will, among other duties, evaluate and make recommendations about the coaching program.

Protect your health benefits: Help reelect Jon Lauritzen

One of the first important actions the new District 3 School Board member will take will be to vote on whether or not to maintain our current active and retiree health benefits plan. Jon Lauritzen is a reliable vote to fully fund our benefits. He spent his career as classroom teacher and understands how important it is to keep our health care intact. JON WON'T BE THERE TO TAKE THIS VOTE IF UTLA MEMBERS DON'T HELP HIM TO GET RE-ELECTED ON MAY 15! You can help by:

- Phone banking at UTLA headquarters
- Joining a community walk in the Valley
- Helping get out the vote May 12, 14, and 15

Call Juan Parrino at (800) 556-UTLA, ext. 216, to volunteer.