



December 2009

**Happy Holidays
And
Be ready for the
New Year!**

**LAUSD Proposals:
furlough days, pay
cuts, midyear
renorming and
more!**

Chapter Chair Trainings: "Organizing My Chapter" will be presented on Thursday, December 10, 2009 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. "School Site Councils" is on Thursday, January 21, 2010 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Call to reserve your spot. More classes shall be available. Many thanks to Carl Joseph who worked very hard with me to schedule and prepare for these trainings.

School Give-Away Motion: The Letter of Intent was due November 15 and every one of the 36 schools set to be given away had a UTLA bid. We do not want any of our schools given away to outside operators and private organizations! We continue to provide support and training to all affected sites (focus schools as well as feeder schools). AFT will fly in trainers from New York to conduct a special support training the weekend of December 12th/13th. The final plan is due January 11, 2010. We will continue to provide support to complete all plans through the holiday period. Look on back for more information and/or go to the UTLA website.

Emergency UTLA BOD and HOR Meeting: There is an emergency Board of Directors meeting and House of Representatives meeting being held on December 11, 2009. The Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. and the House meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. Both meetings are set to consider the Tentative Agreement on Pilot Schools. This agreement would expand the pilot schools allowable by 20. See web site for more details and the text of the actual proposed agreement.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment: The UTLA Election Committee has proposed amendments to Article 3 - Section 4B. This would change the terms and some of the duties of the election committee. Please see web site for details.

Furlough Days & Pay Cuts: Superintendent Cortines has called for "shared sacrifices" of all employees. He is asking for 12% pay cuts for the 2010/11 school year and four furlough days for this school year 2010. SEIU and CSEA have already agreed to the furlough days. UTLA has not started negotiating with the district and is demanding that reductions be made as far away from the classroom as possible. Budgeted cuts include 29 to 1 in grades K thru 3, huge percentage cuts in the Arts program, renorming (yes even in elementary) and other damaging proposals. They say CUT BACK! We say FIGHT BACK!

**Next scheduled
Elementary Committee
Meeting***
December 16, 2009
Guests are
**LAUSD Pre-K – 12 Mathematics
Team**
UTLA Building
Room 815
4:15 pm
Bring questions and concerns
Dinner provided

Volunteers for Committees: We need UTLA members to represent us on various district committees. Please contact my office or Gregg Solkovits, UTLA Secondary Vice President, if you are interested.

School Give A-way Motion: School Give A-way Motion: We have conducted trainings for area school change teams that are visiting sites to address questions, assess needs and to provide support. We have had a forum for PI 3+ schools which included a question and answer hour with Superintendent Cortines and we invited teams of three from each of the 12 targeted PI schools for an all day training on the RFP process, so they can bid for their own schools. UTLA was successful in convincing the district to lengthen the timeline. The letter of intent is due November 15, 2009 and the full proposal is now due on January 8, 2010 (original date was November 30). If you hold any expertise in writing proposals or school change systems please contact me at UTLA.

LAUSD and State Budget woes: The news continues to get worse for our district. The state has forced the use of stabilization dollars for this year that were intended to be used next year. That increases the 2010-2011 LAUSD projected budget deficits to about 480 million. Proposed budget cuts include class size increase in K-3 (29 to 1), a return to half day kindergarten with one teacher to teach both classes and converting 83 School Readiness Language Development Program (SRLDP) classes to California Preschool classrooms (State Pre-K). UTLA will demand to bargain on all budget cuts affecting our members and protest all proposals that harm the educational program of our students. Come to the elementary committee meeting to receive more information and to get involved!

Stull Evaluation Process: Article X (Evaluation and Discipline) is very explicit with regards to the purpose, frequency and who is the evaluator. Section 4.0 outlines the establishment of objectives and states that the objectives are to be mutually agreed upon. For more information attend the next Stull training.

Los Angeles School Development Institute (LASDI): LASDI has been formed to assist the 12 targeted schools and the 24 new schools with the school proposals. This Institute has members from UTLA, AALA, and the District supported by Unite-LA. There are three co-directors: Day Higuchi, former UTLA President and co-director of the Institute for Standards, Curricula and Assessments. The other co-directors are Michelle Bennett former principal of Westwood Affiliated Charter representing AALA and Shelly Westin, former district deputy superintendent representing the LAUSD.

School Give Away: On August 25th six school board members voted in favor of the Yolie Flores motion which puts almost a third of LAUSD schools out for bid. Board member La Motte was the sole vote against the motion. UTLA has begun setting up support systems for the targeted to schools to create design teams that will put forth school change plans. Schools will be visited by UTLA teams which will make initial contact. UTLA will host a meeting for PI 3+ schools for an orientation. Superintendent Cortines is scheduled to attend and will answer questions. Please check the web site for the latest information.

Negotiations Update: UTLA and LAUSD negotiated all summer in an effort to restore class size and re-employ as many of our members as possible. Talks fell apart because of the volatility of the state budget. Of the 1800 rified members who signed up for substitute work almost 150 have been rehired and an additional 600+ are in long term substitute positions. **No furlough days have been negotiated.** Please check the UTLA Website for truthful updates.

Health & Benefits: The HBC and the subcommittee worked all summer to squeeze the providers for the absolutely best packages. Kaiser was most disagreeable and they are now the highest priced plan. The committee was mindful of maintaining continuity of care and containing out of pocket expenses. Please be aware there are some significant changes for a minimum number of members. There will be an article in the September issue of the UT giving details and we will have an open forum for members to ask questions and share concerns. As always check the website for more information.

Child Abuse: Please familiarize with the District's Child Abuse Reporting Bulletin, "Bulletin No. Z-10" and California Law which states that there is an obligation of reporting if . . . "has knowledge of or observes a child whom the employee knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. . . . shall report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately, or soon as practically possible by telephone.(Penal Code Section 11166).

Retirement Information: Most information can be found on the Human Resources website at www.teachinla.com/retirement. Contact Mary Davis at (213)241-5213 or email at mary.davis@lausd.net. For general information contact CalSTRS at www.calstrs.com or call (800)228-5453.