



Unions United for HealthCare

UTLA Members ratified agreement by over 94%

Check web site for details

April 2009

Reduction in force (RIF) notices Update: Superintendent Cortines rescinded 1,996 permanent elementary teachers RIF notices. There are still over 4,000 UTLA members' jobs that are being threatened... so the struggle continues!

May Job Action: On April 1, 2009 the UTLA House of Representatives approved a UTLA Board of Directors motion that UTLA call a one day work stoppage in May to protest layoffs and class size increases. The motion calls for a membership vote between April 24 and 29 to authorize this work stoppage. Please see your chapter chair for details on the vote and how you can help!

Negotiations Update: A tentative agreement has been reached. The timeline for ratification has not been set. Please check the UTLA Website for full tentative agreement and timeline for voting.

Class Size Increases: Yes the district is thinking about doing the unthinkable... raising class size ...Grade K-3 increase by 4 students (24:1) and Grade 4-5 increase by 2 students (31:1). This will eliminate 1,940 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs and save only \$51.1 million dollars. The single most important ingredient in increasing student achievement has been the lowering of student-teacher ratio. Parents and community members agree with teachers... this is not worth the savings! UTLA will fight this attempt to balance the budget on the backs of our youngest students.

Next scheduled Elementary Committee* Meeting
 May 15, 2009
 Special Guest

Marlene Felix
 Elementary Science and History

UTLA Building
 Room 815
 4:15 pm

Bring questions and concerns

*every UTLA member is welcomed to attend

Principal Survey Forms: It is that time of the year for the UTLA version of a Principal Stull. Please ask your Chapter Chair to request forms from the UTLA Area Chair for your site. The surveys are due back to UTLA by April 25th.

Prop. 39: The district is obligated to identify space available for charter schools on operating LAUSD school sites. The charter schools have until May 1, 2009 to determine if they will accept a co-location offer. Co-location is a critical concern of UTLA because of the instructional and operational challenges in the implementation. Please contact me if you have any concerns and questions regarding this process. Ana Teresa Fernandez (213) 241-5433 is the district person to be contacted. The UTLA charter taskforce is working on policy to help guide this process.

Professional Development Surveys: Does your site use a high quality PD survey? If so we need them. UTLA is collecting the best surveys to share city wide. Please fax or email them in to Rosa Beasley. This is a very important step in improving the quality of PD throughout the district.

The January 29th rally was awesome! There was an all time record high of 15,000 members that hit the streets of downtown Los Angeles. A big "thank you" to all members who made this action a huge success. When we show strength we get action!

Left Overs

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 on November 13th at UTLA from 4 to 7pm or November 20th in the valley at Panarama H.S. from 4 to 6pm.

Coordinated Health and Benefits Committee: took the following actions that reduced the initial projected cost of \$975 million to \$943 million. **Dental-** cost savings were achieved by changing from Delta Dental and United Concordia to Metropolitan. Western Dental is an add on. **Medical-** cost savings were achieved by replacing Pacific Care with Health Net. 100% of the hospitals that participated in Pacific Care participate in Health Net. 99% of the doctors that participated in Pacific Care also participate in Health Net. **Prescription Drugs-** cost savings were achieved by replacing MEDCO with Caremark/CVS as pharmacy manager for the Blue Cross Plan. **Life Insurance-** cost savings were achieved by replacing ING (for the life insurance) with Metropolitan Life. For all of these changes **the carriers were changed but the level of benefits and level of services remain unchanged.**

Daily Flushing Requirements for Non-Refrigerated Drinking Fountains: The office of Environmental Health and Safety (Yi Hwa Kim, Interim Director) issued REF-3930.1 on May 9th, 2008 which stated purpose is "to provide guidelines for reducing lead in drinking water by requiring daily flushing of non-refrigerated water fixtures. Our members are being directed to participate and be responsible for flushing pipes. UTLA are asking members not to flush out pipes and not to fill out daily logs... please do not sign anything! There are very serious legal concerns. See the web site for more details and please fax all written directives to me at (213)251-9891.

Buy-Back Days Update: *The district continues the assault upon our membership. They have decided that the following expenditures are more important than offering our members paid professional development days:*

• Coaching Program	7.3
• Day to day Sub	5.0
• Professional Development—Office of Instruction	5.5
• Learning Teams Contract	3.6
• Indirect Support	1,3
• Flexibility Transfer to Special Ed	4.1

Total Expenditures **\$27.0 MILLION**

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).

Textbook Adoption: The process of the next textbook adoption will began soon. This year it will be for math. Please go to the web site or call Rosa Beasley at (213)368-6227 if you would like to participate.

Retirement Information: Most information can be found in the Human Resources website at www.teachinla.com/retirement. Up to 10% retirement bonus payment... 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.

New Chief of Staff: Jim Morris (the current District Two Superintendent) has been named the Chief of Staff. The formal announcement seeking administrators interested in applying for the Local District 2 Superintendent position will be available on the District website. The Local District will work with AALA, UTLA, and community stakeholders to form a committee that will conduct interviews and will forward the names of potential finalists to Superintendent Brewer.

Westchester HS also has voted to join and they will be partnering with Loyola Marymount. Additional schools are expected to vote in February. See the UTLA website for details.

Payroll Issues: It finally looks like the "patch and plug" have started working. The December and January paychecks have had significantly less problems for our members. This progress is directly related to the intense pressure put on the district by our rallies, boycotts, lawsuits, negotiations and our legislative contacts (big thanks to Gloria Romero for holding the town hall meeting). We are very close to an agreement with the district about revamping the system. Some important features are:

Class Size Issues: There have been many complaints throughout the city about class size. The law is very clear the California Education Code Section 52120-52128.5 establishes the "Class Size Reduction Program". It states "The purpose of the Class Size Reduction Program is to ensure that children in public school in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive, receive instruction in classrooms where there are not more than 20 pupils". It goes on to say that "Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the class size from exceeding 20 pupils on any particular day, provided that the average class size for the school year does not exceed 20". If your site needs assistance in enforcing this code please contact your area representative right away!

Non-Mandated Assessments: All agreements from last year are still in effect! The details of the agreement were published in the September 2006 edition of the United Teacher Newspaper. There are two official Memorandums associated with this agreement. Mem-2554 which outlines the purpose and appropriate use of periodic assessments and Mem-3275.0 which outlines the changes to the periodic assessment schedule in language arts and mathematics. **Assessments are not to be posted with teacher or student identification. They are also, not to be used to evaluate teachers. If this is happening at your site please email, fax or call me.**

SB1209 is new legislation that goes into effect January 2007. Any teacher who holds a professional clear credential (which has to be renewed every five years) will only have to pay the fee to renew. The 150 clock hour requirement to renew has been **eliminated**

Daily Schedules: If your site has been given daily schedules that outline minute by minute instruction please fax then to me immediately. These schedules are not "best practices" and are totally unrealistic.

Minimum Day Schedules: If your site has implemented a new minimum day schedule that excludes recess and/or lunch please contact me. Sites are reporting some very strange schedules that are not contractual.

Interviewers needed: If you are interested in representing UTLA on various LAUSD interviewing panels please call or email me to submit your name. We presently need several members from each local district to serve on panels to interview potential instructional coaches and advisor.