



Negotiations Update

January 9, 2008

District uses state budget woes to stall salary offer

Lack of salary offer is unacceptable and disrespectful to teachers

In a tactic to draw out negotiations, LAUSD is conveniently using the state's budget crisis to delay a long overdue salary offer to UTLA members. The District says it will not make a counter proposal to UTLA's 9% raise demand "until after the Governor's proposed budget for 2008-2009 is released and its impact...(is) analyzed."

Effect of District's excessive spending should not fall on teachers' shoulders

In a Special Report dated Jan. 4, LAUSD states that it plans to identify \$100 million in ongoing budget cuts by Feb. 15 in order to balance its budget. With a declining number of students, corresponding cuts should be made to non-teaching positions before any impact on the classroom and teachers. The current state fiscal crisis was not caused by hard-working UTLA members and the effect should not fall on the shoulders of dedicated District employees.

Out-of-control District spending wasted millions that should be spent at school sites

The District has already wasted millions of dollars that should have been spent on the school site. Just look at a few recent examples of excessive spending; wasted dollars that could be spent on a salary increase for teachers:

- \$140 million and counting on the LAUSD payroll debacle and clean-up efforts
- over \$700,000 on "spin doctors" to repair the District's broken image
- \$35 million to create a training and testing center at the Belmont Learning Complex
- Over \$50 million spent last year on the eight mini-districts

District actions show lack of respect for teachers

The District has not acted in true partnership with the union, threatening cuts first rather than asking for UTLA's help. UTLA would be happy to work with LAUSD to ensure that cuts do not unduly affect the classroom. The lack of a raise offer and zero dollars budgeted for salary increases show the District's disregard for teachers. District officials are pleading poverty, but they're ignoring a key fact: LAUSD received a COLA this year of 4.53%, yet they have not offered one dime to UTLA members. The fact is that the District's ending balance for 2007 included a \$207 million carryover of unspent funds. LAUSD just has to prioritize them. UTLA President A.J. Duffy responds to the District's claim of poverty, with a familiar quote: "Once again, they lie, they lie, they lie."

UTLA is working to minimize impact on the classroom

UTLA is working with our affiliates, the labor movement, community based organizations and elected officials to use every potential funding resource to ensure that our students, families and the public workers who support them do not bear the burden of a budget crisis not of their making.

Let the school board know they need to act on the UTLA contract now

Let your school board member and the Superintendent know that UTLA members expect action, not foot-dragging from the District in negotiations. Don't let the Superintendent off the hook. Stay tuned for future UTLA actions that will put pressure on the District in coming months.

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