



(REVISED)  
**SECOND TO NONE**  
January 30, 2008  
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**NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE:** UTLA met with the District's Negotiating Team to address the issue of payroll, and a tentative agreement concerning the payroll system should be forthcoming. There was also discussion about safety and health issues. UTLA flew in an expert witness from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to address the health issues, and currently contract language is being fashioned. Contract updates will be forthcoming. Please check the UTLA website for negotiations updates. The District has yet to put a salary proposal on the table. We are happy to report, though that the Teachers Association of Long Beach has just concluded negotiations which resulted in a 4.6% salary increase; and Riverside settled for 6%, so we remain hopeful in spite of the Governor's slashing of the budget.

**HIGH PRIORITY SCHOOLS:** The Superintendent is now on the ninth edition of his proposal to change the 38 Schools of Greatest Need. He has yet to involve one of the most important stakeholder groups – students. Without the input of students, and their parents or guardians, any plan is doomed to failure. Currently, his plan has over 500 different strategies. My suggestion is that the District narrows its focus and become surgical in its response. The following is the list of High Priority Schools; Senior Highs: Bell, Belmont, Crenshaw, Dorsey, Fremont, Garfield, Huntington Park, Jefferson, Jordan, Lincoln, Los Angeles, Manual Arts, Roosevelt, South Gate, Sylmar, Washington, and Wilson; Middle Schools: Audubon, Bethune, Carver, Clay, Drew, Edison, Gage, Gompers, Harte, Hollenbeck, LA Academy, Mann, Markham, Muir, Stevenson, and Virgil. Of these schools, 6 have gone into the Innovation Division. In addition to the 6, Wright MS and Westchester HS have also gone into the Innovation Division. This takes them out of the Local District, while remaining in LAUSD. Dr. Schiller and Dr. Shelley Weston will be the overseers. On January 29, 2008, the Board approved a Vendor List of support providers for these schools. The Local Districts, in consultation with the schools, will decide the providers. All of the High Priority schools (with the exception of 2) will be receiving SB 1133 (QEIA) monies. There will be a Plan Writing Session coming up in the next two weeks for these schools.

**MAYOR'S PARTNERSHIP & INNOVATION DIVISION:** 5 schools; Roosevelt, Gompers, Hollenbeck, Markham and Stevenson have voted to enter the Mayor's Partnership. Crenshaw, Wright and Westchester have voted to enter the Innovation Division. Crenshaw will be working with the Urban League and USC; Wright and Westchester will be working with LMU.

**DISTRICT MANDATED CURRICULUM:** There is not an Open Court mandate for secondary schools. Some schools are being told that teachers must follow model lessons that were originally meant as supports for the pacing plans. This is not the case. These lessons were meant to support Staff Development and stimulate discussions amongst department members. They may or may not be used with fidelity. It is similar to the District adopted textbooks; they are tools, not a prescription. The House of Representatives passed a motion brought by the Secondary Education Committee; and the motion said that UTLA would defend any Secondary

member who was disciplined for not following a mandated curriculum. The motion was amended to include Elementary teachers as well.

**SCHEDULES:** Schools still have a right to determine their schedules by a vote of faculty. This is Article IX, section 9.0. Please do not go into block scheduling without sufficient preparation. Currently, there are fewer than ten schools with block scheduling. If you need more information for your staff on block schedule, give me a call and I would be happy to do a presentation on this controversial subject. **Also, please do not be forced into a double lunch period.** I have advised the Board that the Superintendent cannot impose a double lunch, that scheduling is subject to bargaining. In addition, schools may want to consider applying for a waiver to use for their Buy Back Days. This should be discussed by your School Site Council. For example, a school may decide to take the 18 hours (3 Buy Back Days) and spread those hours over the course of the school year.

**SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY:** The New Contract gives an additional conference period to Lead Teachers. Any SLC that has more than 350 students is entitled to a Lead teacher. Three different job descriptions for SLC lead teachers have been posted on the UTLA website. In the contract it specifies that this description **must** be mutually agreed upon by the Lead Teacher and the administration. This time is meant to support the SLC and not to assist others in doing their jobs. Also, the school plan must have already been approved by the District, if you are in doubt as to the status of your school, contact the Office of Redesign at (213) 241-3827. Over 270 SLCs have been approved by the Superintendent. Lead teachers have not been provided for Middle Schools since none of the plans have been approved.

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS:** Remember that all teachers, except for Special Education, Physical Education, and some elective teachers should have been designated as highly qualified. Currently, a teacher can contact Mary Lewis or Evon Smith at (323) 932-4660 or (323) 932-2055 to find out about test preparation classes in an effort to become highly qualified. Refer to Bulletin 1408. Teachers should contact the NCLB Unit if they have questions, the number is (213) 241-6356. It is at this office where the district will look up each individual and tell them the number of points (HOUSSE process) that they need for each subject area to be considered Highly Qualified in that subject.

**TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM:** There is an incentive for Math, Science and Special Education teachers in Decile 1-3 schools which are also Program Improvement Schools. This recruitment and retention incentive is worth up to \$5,000 for each individual teacher in these fields. There is also a \$1,000 incentive for **all** Special Education teachers regardless of their school assignment. The agreement also includes a reimbursement for any teacher at a Decile 1, 2, or 3 K-12 school which is also Program Improvement for educational expenses for completing a preliminary math, science or special education credential. Those with these credentials would receive up to \$5,000 for completing a master in their field by June 30, 2009. This is being funded through a state grant. The recruitment also applies to teachers **transferring into** a Decile 1-3, Program Improvement School as well. Teachers who have spent three years in these fields will also be eligible for a bonus at the end of the third year of service. For more information, go to [lausd.net](http://lausd.net) check under Human Resources.

**ALGEBRA:** Remember, Algebra 1 and Algebra Readiness is to be staffed at **28:1**. That means that all these classes taken together average (# of students divided by the number of classes) should be 28. If this is not the case, it is the contractual right of the Dept. Chair to balance the classes.

**PAYROLL:** Teachers by now should have received their W-2 form. UTLA will be sending out an update with information concerning the W-2 form. If you believe that your W-2 is incorrect, you can petition the district for a corrected W-2. See the UTLA website for more information.

The African American Conference will be held at UTLA on Friday-Saturday, February 8-9, 2008. Please consider attending this worthwhile event. Also, The Academic Decathlon Awards Dinner Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at the L.A. Convention Center.

The Secondary Committee Chair is Sue Sloan (Jordan High), the Co-chair is Laurie Fidler (Jefferson High), and the Secretary is Theresa Sams (Clay Middle). Once again, we would like to thank you for all that you do for UTLA and its members. Please join us at the next Secondary Committee Meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, or try to send a representative from your school if you are unable to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

