



January 31, 2012

LATEST NEWS AND ISSUES

1. UTLA preparing to fight yet another round of RIF notices and cuts to vital school programs.

In the last three years, the District has issued an excessive number of RIFs – a number far beyond what was needed to address the drop in enrollment and economic uncertainty. In these three years, the vast majority of RIF'd members were brought back—but only after they have suffered months of stress and turmoil.

Once again, the insanity continues. Superintendent Deasy's Budget Department has informed the School Board that the District is recommending the issuance of RIF notices to 5,400 teachers and health and human services professionals. On February 14, the School Board is expected to vote in favor of yet another doomsday budget that would trigger the issuing of these RIFs on March 15 and cut vital programs at our schools. Some of the proposed drastic cuts include the total elimination of Adult Education and SRLDP (School Readiness Language Development Program), the decimation of Early Childhood Education and elementary arts programs, and more. Go to www.utla.net to see all the proposed drastic cuts in the District's Fiscal Stabilization Plan.

UTLA's #1 priority was, is and remains stopping the RIFs, and stopping the cuts to schools. UTLA is planning a fight-back strategy beginning with an action on February 14 when the School Board is expected to take its first vote on the RIFs and the proposed budget.

SAVE THE DATE: February 14 Action to ensure the School Board is held accountable

UTLA is planning a demonstration on February 14 to tell the School Board to stop the insanity and remind them of the destructive toll that RIFs and program cuts have on students, parents, teachers and the community. After school on February 14, join UTLA members, parents, and community members at LAUSD headquarters to protest the RIF notices and proposed budget cuts. More details to come.

Spread the word by directing your members to the UTLA Facebook event page to join the action at www.fb.com/utlanow and have them invite their friends to participate in the action.

2. UTLA demands that the District STOP unauthorized deductions from member paychecks

LAUSD is violating the contract on furlough days established in last year's job-saving agreement. Per-student funding has met the level in the agreement to result in zero furlough days for our members. The District has ignored this and has been taking unauthorized withdrawals from members' paychecks. We demand that the District **refund** any unauthorized deductions immediately. To enforce the signed agreement from last spring, we are taking the District to expedited binding arbitration.

NEXT STEPS FOR MEMBERS TO PROTEST THE UNAUTHORIZED DEDUCTIONS:

February 1: Attend Area Meeting to get information about the unauthorized deductions by LAUSD and to pick up parent flyers for the leafleting on February 3 to protest the proposed cuts to the school year that would accompany furlough days. (The parent flyer is available at www.utla.net)

February 2: Chapter Chairs hold a chapter meeting to collect your members' completed LAUSD Payroll Service Request Forms (to be delivered to LAUSD on Feb 3 to demand a refund of unauthorized deductions for furlough days) and to plan for the parent leafleting.

(Note: If you have already collected your LAUSD Service Request forms before Wednesday, Feb. 1, bring them to the Area meeting.)

February 3: Hold parent leafleting before and/or after school. Join other UTLA Chapter Chairs and UTLA leaders to deliver the LAUSD Payroll Service Request Forms to LAUSD after school.

3. Attend a member forum on February 6 about UTLA's plan for Teachers' Support & Development

We urge all UTLA members to take part in a member forum about teacher support & development (evaluation). This issue concerns all members across the district and we want to hear your thoughts on UTLA's comprehensive plan.

Monday, February 6, 4:30-6:30 pm

Monroe High School (9229 Haskell Ave. North Hills., CA 91343)

For RSVP and details, go to: http://www.utla.net/system/files/TSD_Forum_201202_u.pdf

4. RIF Information Meetings coming in February

To prepare for possible RIFs, UTLA will be holding informational meetings. The dates are:

Feb. 2 at Stephen White MS. 22102 S. Figueroa St., Carson, 90745

Feb 7 at Monroe HS, 9229 Haskell Ave., North Hills, 91343

Feb 9 at UTLA, 3303 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, 90010

All meetings run from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. RSVP at www.utla.net/rsvp

5. Upcoming Initiative Vote begins Monday, February 6

A petition about RIF and teacher evaluation has been submitted to UTLA for a vote. The question before the membership will be:

Shall UTLA's contractual negotiations with LAUSD include a moratorium on all RIFs for all UTLA bargaining unit members through June 30, 2014, as part of a revised, phased-in, teacher-driven evaluation system mutually agreed upon by UTLA and LAUSD?

Feb. 1: Materials for the vote on this initiative will be distributed at the Area meetings.

Feb. 6-9: Voting at school sites.

Feb. 9: Ballots are to be dropped off at designated locations.

Feb. 10: Votes counted.

The election timeline, drop sites, pro-con statements and other details will be posted at www.utla.net.

6. Change to UTLA officer visit schedule for Area meetings

The rotation for UTLA officer visits to Area meetings has been updated. For the Feb. 1 meeting, the officers will be: **Central** (Juan Ramirez- Elementary Vice President), **East** (Betty Forrester- AFT Vice President), **Harbor** (UTLA Staff), **North** (Arlene Inouye-Treasurer), **South** (Warren Fletcher-President), **Valley East** (Greg Solkovits- Secondary Vice President), **Valley West** (Mary Jan "MJ" Roberts-NEA/CTA Vice President) and **West** (David Lyell-Secretary).

7. New UTLA Facebook Page

UTLA has launched a new Facebook page. Make sure to look us up and tell your members to join the UTLA Facebook community. "Like us" at www.fb.com/utlanow



8. Diane Ravitch presentation video available on utla.net

If you did not get a chance to hear Diane Ravitch speak on Jan. 17, the video of her presentation is now available at <http://www.utla.net/video/2012> . There also some links to some interviews and articles by Dr.Ravitch.

ONGOING AND RECENT ITEMS

1. Are vendors selling 403b insurance products at your school?

Please be aware that both UTLA and LAUSD have policies regarding vendors on school campuses. District Board Rule 1251 prohibits the advertising or sale to students or employees of any article whatsoever, and soliciting for any cause. We have received numerous reports about predatory vendors. Please let us know of violations. Contact Arlene Inouye, UTLA Treasurer ainouye@utla.net. Thank you.

2. 2012 Retirement Dates

For employees planning to retire at the end of the 2011-2012 school year, please see memo from LAUSD Chief Human Resources Officer. Look for the letter under Special Notices at: <http://www.utla.net/retired>

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Area Meetings (Feb. 1)
2. Parent Informational Picketing at school sites (Feb. 3)
3. Chapter Chairs deliver completed Payroll Service Request Forms to Beaudry after school (Feb. 3)
4. Teachers' Support & Development Member Forum (Feb. 6)
5. Initiative vote at school sites (Feb. 6-9)
6. RIF Information Meetings (Feb. 2, 7, 9)
7. Initiative ballots dropped off at designated locations (Feb. 9)
8. African American Education Committee Conference (Feb. 10-11)
9. Demonstration after school at LAUSD School Board (Feb. 14)

For these and other UTLA events, meetings and announcements, go to:

<http://www.utla.net/event> and <http://www.utla.net/announce>



<http://www.twitter.com/utlanow>

OR send a text to 40404 with the words: Follow UTLAnow
(Standard text rates may apply)



<http://www.fb.com/utlanow>