

FROM^T H E TABLE

A MBUTA NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN TO TEACHERS

MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION • 3551 VOYAGER STREET, SUITE 105 • TORRANCE, CA 90503 • (310) 921-2500

Friday, February 12, 2016

We have been negotiating for the 2015-16 school year since December of last year. A few answers are listed below to frequently asked questions:

1. Our current contract is **NOT** expired. Our contract expires June of 2016
2. We are **NOT** negotiating the full contract this year—on years with re-openers only **salary, benefits, and one article for MBUTA and MBUSD** are up for discussion.
3. The actual budget numbers as reported from MBUSD include several million of new money; therefore, this is a year wherein the District can afford a salary adjustment.
4. As a result of the negotiations language from the 2014-15 agreement, a **Health Benefits Subcommittee** has been meeting to see if reduced District expenses for health benefits can be achieved without a loss of service to our members. This work has been communicated to site reps—ask them for details of the progress.
5. The District is asking for language changes in article 7—Hours and Assignments. The conversation so far has been productive.
6. MBUTA is asking for changes in the language in article 10—Complaints Regarding Unit Members.
7. The 2016-17 Calendar is **NOT** part of the current discussion. Until we get a settlement for 2015-16 (the current year), we are bound to the current negotiated calendar for 2016-17 as posted on the District website

Meetings thus far

December 7—this meeting was cancelled due to a bomb threat at MCHS

December 18—This meeting was held at the District Office. The discussion was productive. As it was the first real session, much of the business revolved around general discussions. Data necessary to the bargaining process has been requested by MBUTA and thus far, the District has been readily forthcoming with information about the budget. Both sides seem to agree that the numbers look good for this year.

January 27—The two sides met at the South Bay United Teachers (SBUT) office. The District brought forward language changes for article 7. Discussions were robust and respectful. Productive discussions also occurred around health benefits and the current and projected state of the District revenues and expenditures. It is important that both sides agree on these issues in order to come to agreement on a fair salary increment adjustment.

February 8— After continued discussion of the aforementioned items, MBUTA handed the District the first proposal of this round which included language changes on Article 10 along with money toward certificated salaries. We expect the District to respond to the proposal at the next scheduled meeting.

Negotiations take time and can be frustrating. Thank you for your patience. Our bargaining team will meet with the District team again on **February 23**. Please stay in contact with your site reps; your voice at board meetings and your involvement on committees and as leaders on your site will be needed as we get closer to making the compromises that will lead to a successful conclusion to these negotiations.

Your Bargaining Team, Adam Geczi, Chair; Jed Rucker & Linda Hunt