

FROM ^T_H^E TABLE

AN RBTA NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN TO TEACHERS

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June 19, 2013

RBTA met with the district for a second bargaining session. The district presented their initial proposal.

- They identified their three major priorities which are 1) to increase reserves, 2) “compensate when appropriate and in whatever form we can offer,” and 3) professional development. They did indicate that these were in no particular order.
- The district requested that RBTA develop calendars for 2014/15 and 2015/16 for discussion. RBTA indicated that we would need time to develop calendars, based on member input.
- The district continued to request the division of early release days to 50% teacher-directed and 50% principal/district-directed. RBTA reiterated that members have indicated a clear desire to utilize early release time as currently practiced.
- The district agreed with RBTA’s proposal to add the 7th period P.E. MOU to the contract, but proposed including the discretion to add 0 or 7th period for any subject.
- RBTA continues to propose that any acceptance of students above the 35 cap, with compensation, be on a voluntary basis. The district agrees to compensation, but does not want to give teachers the option to decline. (The district-wide average class size shall remain at no greater than 30).
- The district continues to state that they do not have clear budget information other than estimating an increase in revenues of \$1.2 to \$1.5 million and asserting that it will cost about that much to restore furlough days. They offered to add three optional, district-directed staff development days to the calendar, paid at a member’s professional rate. They also offered to pick up 75% of any health care premium increase.
- They requested clarification on proposed transfer and reassignment language which we discussed at length.

We will meet again next week when the district will present alternative contract language proposals based on some of the concerns that RBTA expressed. They also requested a late-July, early-August bargaining date in order to have a more accurate picture of the budget.

RBTA was very disappointed in the district’s lack of response to our salary proposal. We agreed to postpone bargaining until California had a budget agreement, and an agreement was reached last weekend. After several years of cuts from the state, we know there will be an increase to district revenues. RBTA members took 5 furlough days this school year and agreed to an additional 12 days if Proposition 30 had not passed. These temporary concessions were made to give the district the assurance that even if the worst happened, the district would remain solvent. Rather than acknowledging the financial sacrifices made by RBTA members, the district offered to pay members for doing additional work instead of offering a salary increase. This is insulting. If it is the district’s intent to

use the proposed staff development days for Common Core training, we know that the Governor's budget provides for substantial funds to support Common Core requirements.

As of Saturday, June 15, 2013, California lawmakers approved a budget for 2013-14 which provides for a SUBSTANTIAL increase in funding to education. Governor Brown has until July 1, 2013 to sign, and all indications are that he will. This budget is a compromise worked out between him and lawmakers who fought to make his Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) fairer for all districts. Our local lawmakers, Senator Ted Lieu and Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi have been instrumental in seeing that the new funding formula brings more dollars to our district! The district should be able to, by our session next week, have a firmer grasp on how much revenue will be coming in for the 2013-14 school year and beyond.

Your RBTA Bargaining Team:

Amy Santa Cruz (Chair)

Tim Baumgartner

Hilary Berry-Cahn

Rick Crump

Linda Dillard

Monica Joyce (RBTA President)

Sandra Goins (Executive Director, South Bay United Teachers)