



Teachers Association of Long Beach, CTA/NEA

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UPDATE

January 21, 2009

47TH AND FALLING STATE BUDGET UPDATE

“California ranks 47th in per-pupil spending, according to “Quality Counts,” a report issued Tuesday from Education Week, a national newspaper specializing in public schools. It showed that while the national average is \$9,963 per pupil, California spends \$7,571 according to the report. Vermont spends the most, with \$15,139. Utah spends the least, with just \$5,964 per pupil.”

San Francisco Chronicle Article on Jan. 14

“Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, whose budget already makes dramatic cuts in education, is proposing to withhold billions of dollars from schools that were guaranteed by measure approved by voters decades ago.”

...from the same article

As UPDATE went to press there was no resolution to the state budget crisis – and more questions than answers on how this crisis will impact our local schools and jobs. There was some indication that there would be a budget by weeks end and that the budget would cut even further than predicted into Proposition 98 funding. There was also some movement on help from the Obama Administration. The District is left guessing on what cuts are coming, with estimates in the 50 million to 70 million range. The relative health of our local budget means LBUSD may weather this crisis better than most districts, but it will be a very difficult road ahead for all California schools. As soon as a budget is finalized we will publish another “FAQ” to provide answers to member questions. We will also continue to respond to issues and concerns in person at site visits and also over the phone.

SITE ADMINISTRATION SURVEYS

This member perception survey is being conducted so that our union and the district can work together to improve the working conditions at all of our schools. As the exclusive representative, California law authorizes and requires that the Teachers Association of Long Beach (TALB) represent certificated employees on all matters related to their professional and employment relations with the Long Beach Unified School District. To comply with its legal responsibilities, TALB needs to both assess the learning and working environment in the District’s schools and establish the professional and employment needs and interests of certificated employees. This survey was prepared and distributed for these purposes. With many members being concerned with displacements and transfers, this survey will provide information on which school may be a better fit. Please take the time to fill out your survey and send it to the TALB office no later than 4:30 on Friday, February 6th, 2009. Remember in order for the results for your site to be published, 50% of the bargaining unit members at your site must return the survey. Also, for those sites that have a return rate of 75% or better, there will be an incentive so you can buy treats for your staff.

DISSEMINATION OF THE SURVEY RESULTS: TALB will hold *individual* survey responses **confidential**. TALB will use the *aggregate* survey results to work together with the district to change and improve the working conditions at each school. This will include release of the *aggregate* survey results to the public including but not limited to the members of TALB, respective site administrators, the governing board and the administrative staff of the LBUSD.

PRE-RETIREMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP

TALB is sponsoring a pre-retirement planning workshop on Feb. 11 from 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM at Longfellow Elementary Auditorium (3800 Olive Avenue). The workshop will cover:

- STRS Defined Benefit Program and STRS Supplemental Defined Benefit Program
- Pre-Retirement Option Selection
- Working after retirement
- Social Security & Medicare
- New Laws Affecting STRS
- Note – Individual calculations will not be done

Jack Cottrell will present this popular workshop. PLEASE RSVP TO THE TALB OFFICE WITH ERIC AT eric@talb.org OR CALL 562-426-6433 BY FEB. 9, SO THAT SUFFICIENT TRAINING MATERIALS AND SNACKS CAN BE PROVIDED.

EAS-Y ANSWERS TO THE POST-HOLIDAY BLUES GET SUPPORT FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

With the holidays over, economic uncertainty in our state and country, and other stresses in our lives today it is easy to understand how we may become strained and overcome with anxiety. Often when feeling this way it is difficult to know who to turn to for assistance. A little known benefit we have as educational employees in Los Angeles County is the Employee Assistance Service for Education program. EASE is a leading regional service that provides district staff and their families with the opportunity to assess and resolve their difficulties with the assistance of a professional counselor through an assessment and brief counseling service. EASE offers high quality, confidential assistance in:

- Personal and family problems
- Job-related issues
- Stress
- Substance abuse
- Grief, loss and traumatic incidents
- Worksite and phone consultations

All calls and consultations with EASE are confidential and will not be reported to the district, your school, or the Association. There is no reason to suffer in silence. If you feel you need assistance please take advantage of this very important benefit by calling (800) 882-1341. A confidential counselor will be available to take your call. More information is available on-line at www.lacoe.edu.

QUICK HITS...

MEMORIAL – BLUE SHIELD CONTRACT UPDATE: *Apologies for the error in the last UPDATE on this matter... we referred to BLUE CROSS and, of course, the issue is with BLUE SHIELD. The contract between BLUE SHIELD and Memorial Health Services has been resolved.*

TALB/CTA/NEA DUES AND TAXES: *The bad news is that it is TAX TIME. The good news is that your union dues are deductible. For information on dues amounts go to the TALB web site at www.talb.org.*

ROCK THE TEACHER: *The “Rock Club” presents the ROCK THE TEACHER MUSIC FESTIVAL, February 7th from 12PM to 5PM, at Wilson High School. Buy tickets at the door. Watch local teachers perform live Rock-n-Roll. Win prizes. Eat food. Meet friends. Meet celebs. Bring the family. For more information go to www.therockclub.net*

QUOTABLE: *“So Schwarzenegger’s (budget) plan is unfair and destructive...no one can blame first graders. But cutting their school year would not only create problems and expenses for parents, it would almost surely lead to higher dropout rates, lower test scores and lowered skill levels for the state’s high school graduates. It would probably also interfere with recruiting new teachers, as loss of class time and commensurately lower pay would surely harm teacher morale...Meanwhile, wealthy investors whose limited partnerships often escape reassessment to higher property tax levels under the rules administering Proposition 13 property tax initiative won’t be put out at all...It all adds up to an ugly picture of discrimination against the powerless, victimizing people who had little or nothing to do with creating the state budget crisis...”*

THOMAS ELIAS’ SYNDICATED COLUMN, PRESS TELEGRAM, 1/22/09

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK THE TALB WEBSITE AT WWW.TALB.ORG
OR CALL US AT 562-426-6433**