



Teachers Association of Long Beach, CTA/NEA

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UPDATE

June 6, 2009

2008-2009 CONTRACT RATIFIED DISTRICT TAKEBACK PROPOSALS FOR NEXT YEAR LIKELY

The K-12 and CDC/Head Start contracts were ratified by the TALB membership. The K-12 tally was a vote of 1740 in favor of the agreement and 26 opposed. The CDC/Head Start vote was 43 in favor and 1 opposed. The results send a strong signal regarding the importance of maintaining salary and benefits for TALB members in this challenging economic environment.

The current agreement will now remain as the status quo until the parties are able to negotiate a new contract in the next round of negotiations. We will survey all TALB members in September regarding ideas for proposals and future school calendar.

It is great that we have nailed down this year's contract...as the next year is sure to be a challenge. Don't be surprised if the LBUSD, like many districts, moves quickly to make proposals in the coming weeks regarding possible rollbacks of salary and benefits for next year. Some Districts are communicating these proposals in the form of a letter to employees. **Remember, all proposals to rollback contractual salaries, health care, or other benefits are subject to negotiations.**

Unfortunately, it is clear that the wheels are literally falling off of state government – and school districts will be severely impacted. There have been many questions regarding what will happen to LBUSD as a result of the complete meltdown of the state budget and the cuts that will soon be imposed by Sacramento. **On the reverse side we provide a brief FAQ on what we know (and what we don't) right now.**

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL? BUDGET CRISIS MIGHT REQUIRE SUMMMER MOBILIZATION

Please EMAIL your personal (not LBUSD) EMAIL address to us. We want to be able to update you immediately if anything new occurs locally as a result of the budget crisis. The FAQ on the reverse side reports what we know right now, but things might change quickly after the end of school. If we need to UPDATE you or ORGANIZE around any cuts, email is the quickest method of contact. We have approximately 70% of our TALB member emails – **even if you think we have your email, send it to us again so we can double check our records.** Don't be left out of the loop.

EMAIL your EMAIL address to Eric at eric@talb.org. Thanks.

(OVER)

THE STATE BUDGET CRISIS and LBUSD...

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL THERE BE AUGUST LAYOFFS (FOR NEXT YEAR) IN LONG BEACH? *The state has determined that the deadline for school districts to notify the state if they are going to do August 15 layoffs for the upcoming school year is June 15. **Superintendent Steinhauser already said there will not be any layoffs of probationary and permanent TALB bargaining unit members for next year.***

WHAT LOCAL CUTS WILL OCCUR NEXT YEAR? *Irrespective of layoffs, our local schools will see cuts for next year. The District has not made any final decisions, but they will likely look at everything. While the District has committed to no layoffs of probationary and permanent TALB bargaining unit members, these cuts will impact TALB members as temporary contract teachers lose jobs, program staffing and resources are chopped to the bone, and voluntary transfers are all but eliminated as the District works to place displaced employees. We will continue to work with the District to keep the cuts as far away from the classroom as possible.*

WILL THERE BE LAYOFFS NEXT SPRING FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR? *Unless there is a dramatic turn in the economy, additional Federal intervention in California's budget crisis, and/or an influx of local revenues in the form of a parcel tax, it seems likely that staffing in the coming years will be reduced to the bare bone. How deep those layoffs might be is just a guess right now – the economy is so fluid and the state government is so paralyzed that much could change in a year.*

WILL OUR HEALTH BENEFITS AND SALARY COME UNDER ATTACK NEXT YEAR? *Any changes in health benefits, salary, or any other part of the contract can only occur via the bargaining process. We will know what the District intends when it presents its' initial proposal – we can't make our proposal until after we survey our members in September, but they can make theirs at anytime. **We may even get a signal before that, as there are reports that some Districts are beginning to send out letters to employees telling them they intend to cut salaries, and our District may do likewise. It will be no surprise if the District signals its' intention to attempt a salary reduction in some form or another (e.g., percentage salary reduction, unpaid furloughs, step and column freezes, etc.) and/or cut benefits.** We will keep you informed every step of the way, organize as necessary, and rely on our unity to protect our members and our classrooms from takeaways. **Remember, salaries and benefits are subject to a bilateral negotiation process between TALB and the District and any proposal from the District cannot be implemented until that process is completed.***

IS OUR RETIREMENT AT RISK? *STRS is a big and diversified system that is constitutionally protected...that is the good news. However, it is not immune from the tanking economy and faltering state government. Most observers believe STRS is positioned to survive this crisis intact. There is some discussion in Sacramento of an increase in contributions from participants and/or employers.*

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

- Stay informed and stay united.
- Please send us your email so we can keep you updated over the summer (email Eric at eric@talb.org).
- Check the TALB website at www.talb.org for regular updates.
- If we need to mobilize, please take action as requested.
- Contact your local state legislator and tell them we can't take any more cuts to our local schools.

WILL I BE ABLE TO CONTACT TALB IF I HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED HELP? *Yes. The TALB office will be open and staffed all summer. If you have questions please call, email, or drop by the office. Our telephone number is 562-426-6433. Our emails are:*

Mike Day, President – mday@talb.org

Joe Boyd, Executive Director – jboyd@talb.org

Chris Callopy, Assistant Executive Director – ccallopy@talb.org

The TALB office is at 4362 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807

ENJOY THE SUMMER...AND STAY UNITED!