

San Bernardino Teachers Association

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

May 13, 2010

STATE BUDGET CUTS UPDATE

Everyone in CTA, and throughout the state, is anxiously awaiting the “May Revision” of the state budget, which is supposed to be presented this Friday, May 13. The anxiety is caused by the absolute uncertainty of how strong California’s revenues, from which school dollars come, will actually be.

Earlier updates were cautiously optimistic with reports that General Fund revenues were running ahead of the Governor’s January budget estimate by approximately \$2.7 billion of tax receipts. The update from April 28 reported that income tax revenues were well short of projection. In fact, the revenues were so short that they could wipe out most, if not all, of the \$2.7 billion. The net effect is to dampen any hope for a significant boost to the May Revision forecast.

The implications for public education in light of these developments raise serious concern about the May Revision. SBTA is committed to meeting with the District following the May Revision for an update on the projected impact on the State Education Budget and SBCUSD’s budget. As soon as possible after that review, SBTA will publish an update for Reps and members. Stay tuned to SBTA Reps for updated information.

OTHER BARGAINING ISSUES:

SBTA has submitted a “Demand for Impact Bargaining” to the District on the identification of eleven (11) schools as part of the “5% Persistently Low Achieving Schools” (herein PLAS), the effects of the two (2) models – Transformation and Restart -- the Board of Education decided will be applied to those schools. The District and SBTA have already met at the negotiations table and initially identified those contract articles: Class Size, Evaluation Procedures, Hours, Transfer Procedures, Wages, Teachers Safety and Protection. SBTA also identified other topics including: Site governance and decision making, which could become a new article. SBTA created a special feedback mechanism for these schools to garner members’ ideas on these issues.

Since the District and Association have agreed to keep the collective bargaining agreement closed for another two (2) years, any and all agreements relative to the PLAS schools will be formalized in Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), and will most likely last the duration of the School Improvement Grants should they be awarded to the eleven schools. At the end of the three (3) year period, the MOUs will be up for consideration for extension, or perhaps, even inclusion in the current agreement.

As negotiations move forward, *Negotiations Updates* will be forthcoming. While these are challenging times, there is a degree of excitement to be found in helping school site teams implement plans specifically aimed at improving student performance and success at our schools. Stay Tuned for new developments!

In addition, SBTA has submitted a “demand to consult” on the impact of recent moves to full inclusion at elementary schools and the use of RTI at high schools which has not yet been scheduled. Any resulting bargaining implications will be addressed in negotiations.