

**I Have Taught For 25 Years!  
I Have A Life Credential!  
I Took AB 466 Training!  
How Can You Say  
I Am Not Highly Qualified?**

The Human Resources Department sent out data verification letters to all Bargaining Unit members concerning compliance with the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Highly Qualified Teacher law. Upon receipt of the letter many Bargaining Unit members realized for the first time that new laws require certification beyond credentialing.

**I Don't Want To Take A Test**

Bargaining Unit members teaching in State defined core subjects in Title 1 schools must be certified as highly qualified by June 2006. **Teachers who received their credentials prior to July 1, 2002 do not have to take a test in order to receive highly qualified status.** Teachers will have to complete paperwork verifying related teaching experiences in order to be certified by Human Resources. Highly Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) Worksheet will be sent to affected teachers in early March. Meetings to explain HOUSSE are planned **Monday, March 29** and **Wednesday, March 31**, 3:30 p.m. at La Merced Intermediate. Approximately 800 teachers district wide received letters inviting them to attend the HOUSSE meetings.

**I Just Got My Credential**

**How Can I Be Required To Take A Test?**

Teachers who receive credentials after June 30, 2002 and teach State defined core subjects in Title 1 schools will be required to take a subject matter competency test for highly qualified certification. This change in the law will require our utmost support to colleagues who now face a comprehensive test in order to continue to teach. The dates of the CSET this year are March 20, May 15, and July 17.

**For More Information...**

- CTA.org has comprehensive information regarding ESEA, NCLB, HQT, HOUSSE and the rest of the alphabet that goes along with the Federal and State laws and corresponding regulations. CTA.org is linked to montebelloteachers.org.
- *California Educator* has an in depth article on Highly Qualified Teachers in the February issue.
- Human Resources will answer questions at 323.887-7927.

**Bargaining Update**

The Bargaining Team will meet Friday, March 8 to discuss early retirement incentives. The 2+2 early retirement law will be discussed thoroughly.

The Bargaining Team includes Chairperson Terry Salas (CCE), Elizabeth Gasca (RPE), Walt Lowery (MAI), Dolores Rego (BGH), and Brian Stevens (LMI).

**Is**

**Your Site  
Considering MOUs?**

The District and the Association have developed joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) forms banking minutes and staff development day site specific waivers.

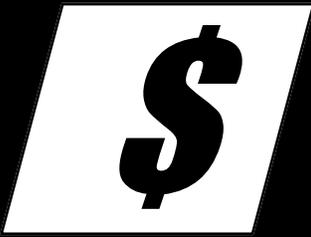
Now, there is one form for both the Faculty Club Chairperson and the site Principal to complete and return to District office. The form will then be forwarded to the MTA office.

**MOU requests are due Friday, April 30.** Forms are available at monte-

**Insurance Forum**

Members of the Insurance Committee take input at the February 19 Open Forum. Left to Right: Art Revueltas (MOI), Roy Simpson (broker) Brenda Wade (MAI), Ron Simpson (broker), Olivia Cervantes (DO)





February 24, 2004

**Revenue & Expense**

*mta*  
**Report**

The Revenue & Expense Committee was created in February 1995 to cooperatively examine the District's finances. The Committee is comprised of members each from MTA, CSEA, and MUSD.

MTA

Dianne Garcia-Stevens (LMI)  
Dorothy Chu (CCE)  
Randie Hayward (SHS)  
Susan Jauregui, alt. (EAI)

Kathy Kohn (ex-officio)

**REVENUE AND EXPENSE QUARTERLY REPORT**

**Revenues**

The month of December 2003.....	\$15,859,822.00
The month of December 2002.....	\$15,525,285.00
Year to date this year .....	\$64,388,715.00
Year to date last year.....	\$64,452,544.00

**Expenses**

The month of December 2003.....	\$27,676,553.00
The month of December 2002.....	\$14,574,220.00
Year to date this year .....	\$81,763,116.00
Year to date last year.....	\$65,600,955.00

**TOPICS OF INTEREST THIS QUARTER**

**Facilities:**

Pam Johnson updated the committee in the various projects at the school sites:

1. Laguna Nueva roadway to Gage is continuing.
2. Garfield parking lot is open.
3. Bell Gardens Elementary playground is almost completed.
4. Rosewood Park Elementary is dealing with utility issues that may impact the two story building.
5. Bella Vista is working on portable change, and negotiating with Monterey Park to use part of the park to put portables on.

In addition, Laguna Nueva received news from the California Dept. of Toxic Substances that their site does not pose a threat to students and staff in regards to contamination. At Bell Gardens High School the district is currently taking back work from the contractor to be sub-contracted. Also, the district will go to bid on 5 modernization projects at: MHS, CCE, SUI, and LMI.

**Reports:**

Special Ed. has a tentative agreement with LACO to pay them \$2.8 million dollars to cover the 2 ½ years of charges. They (LACO) have agreed to keep control of accounting practices and budgeting.

**Budget Proposal from the Governor's Office:**

CTA and the Governor have come to a meeting of the minds with a partial suspension of Prop 98 monies. In exchange for this, the Governor's proposal calls for COLA and growth to be fully funded, including Special Ed. Additionally, the proposal will call for all categorical programs to receive the 1.84% COLA. Categorical programs did not receive COLA last year. What this means for MUSD is approximately \$2.9 million dollars into the district, in terms of COLA monies.

**Prop. 55 (Facilities Bond):**

The Bond will allow funds to be targeted to areas of the greatest needs in strict accountability measure. It will aim to relieve overcrowding, and to help with the repair of older schools in addition to upgrade and build new classrooms in the Calif. Community College, State University, and University of Calif. Systems.

**Prop. 57 (Economic Recovery Bond) (Governors):**

One time bond of \$15 million which will be used to refinance past deficits.

**Prop. 58 (Calif. Balanced Budget Act):**

The bond is a spending limit designed to prevent us from being in a similar fiscal mess in the future. It creates a rainy day savings account that will be used to pay off the bonds early, and build a cushion for future economic downturns. Both Propositions 57 and 58 must pass to take effect.

Why do we support Propositions 57 and 58? In taking a hard and realistic look at our state budget, we realize we're not living in normal times. If these initiatives do not pass the state must face cutting another 15 billion dollars from the budget. That means additional cuts to education, and the budget agreement (in regards to the \$2 billion increase) will be threatened. There's no perfect solution to this problem. Not passing Prop 57 and 58 will bring drastic cuts to all state services, including education. This is why we are asking you for your support.