

# mta

# CONTACT

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**bargaining up-**

## Bargaining Chairperson Salas Reviews Status of Negotiations with Council

Bargaining Chairperson Terry SalasOrtiz (CCE) reviewed the negotiations timeline with Council last Tuesday.

Negotiations began June 11. The Members of Terry's team include Julian De La Torre (EAI), Elizabeth Gasca (RPS), Dolores Rego (BGH), and Andy Shinn (BGI). Executive Director Kathy Kohn serves as advisor. Article XVII. Safety Security and Working Conditions and Article XVIII. Were tentatively agreed upon last summer. Article IV. Hours and Assignments, Article VII. Class Size, Article XVI. Leave Policy, and Article XII. Wages are not yet settled.

Terry reminded the Council that this year the State budget was not settled until August 21. In the meantime MUSD Business Manager Glenn Sheppard retired. The District also experienced a third year of enrollment decline of approximately 1,000 students per year.

Superintendent Ed Velasquez asked the Fiscal Crisis Management and Assistance Team (FCMAT) to review the books and make recommendations on the budget. Governor Schwarzenegger declared a State fiscal crisis in early January. The legislature has until mid March to make any mid-year adjustments to the 2007-2008 education funding. FCMAT has delayed its recommendation until the State issues are settled.

Negotiations will therefore resume February 20. President Dianne GarciaStevens reminded the Council that the Association has been extremely patient regarding the recent series of events. However, the conclusion of negotiations will include a raise and a retro check for members! Dianne has asked members to stay well informed with site Faculty Clubs regarding the status of negotiations.

**Enter the Chavez Memorial Program**  
 The CTA Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Education Program will provide recognition for students and their teachers who demonstrate an understanding of the vision and guiding principles by which Cesar E. Chavez lived his life. The Awards Program will honor the memory of this great man and ensure that the spirit of his work continues in the classrooms of California. Entries are due **Friday, February 29**. Applications are available at the MTA office and at [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org).

**CTA Offers MLK, Jr. Scholarships**  
 CTA offers the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship to members and heir dependents who are from the following defined ethnic minority groups: African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic. The applicants must be pursuing a college degree or credential for a teaching-related career in public education in an accredited institution of higher learning. Applications are available at the MTA office and at [www.CTA.org](http://www.CTA.org) and must be post-marked no later than **Friday, March 14**.

**Your Opinion Counts... Insurance Forum**  
 Reminder: the MUSD Health and Welfare Committee will conduct a **forum** at Schurr High School on **Wednesday, January 30** from 3:30 - 5 p.m. All are welcome.  
 The National Education Association (NEA) is conducting an online survey between now and March 31. To access the survey, go to [www.NEA.Org/healthcaresurvey](http://www.NEA.Org/healthcaresurvey). To take the survey, click on "Take the Survey"