

mta CONTACT

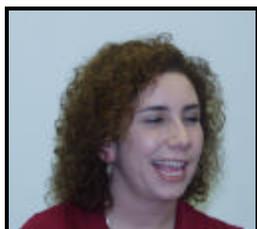
Montebello Teachers Association/California Teachers Association/National Education Association • 918 W Whittier Blvd Montebello 90640 • (323) 722-5005 • montbelloteachers.org

Wage Negotiations Continue

Bargaining Chairperson Terry SalasOrtiz (CCE) reports that the negotiations continue regarding wages and other financial issues. The District and the Association met last week.

Topics of discussion ranged from the State's COLA of 4.53% to the loss of more than 2600 students in the past three school years.

The two teams continue to get closer to a settlement. Terry's team includes Vice President Julian De La Torre (EAI), Secretary Elizabeth Gasca (RPS), Dolores Rego (BGH), and Andy Shinn (BGI).



Secretary Elizabeth Gasca



Vice President Julian De La Torre

Open Enrollment for Flexible Spending Benefit Is through November 15

The District offers a flexible benefit plan for members who want to spend pretax dollars on specific expenses. Flexible benefits started when Congress passed Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code in 1978. Section 125 allows certain qualified benefits, estimated for a given year, to be deducted directly from an employee paycheck. These deductions are taken before taxes, therefore, reducing taxable benefits. The District contracts with Sheakley to administer the benefit. Employees may utilize up to \$3000 for medical expenses and \$5000 for childcare per calendar year. Open enrollment for this benefit is through November 15.

For more information on flexible spending contact Risk Management at extension 2302. You may also go to the Sheakley web site: www.sheakley.com.

Teachers Responsible for *Failure Notices*

Classroom teachers are directly responsible for notifying parents of possible failing grades. Whenever it becomes evident to a teacher that a student is in danger of failing a course (D or F grade), the teacher must arrange a conference with the student's parent/guardian or send the parent/guardian a written report (failure notice.) In all cases the notification must come prior to the assignment of the grade.

The teacher's responsibility for failure notices is stated in California Education Code 49067 and Montebello Unified School District Administrative Regulation 5121 (a).

You Are Entitled To A 30-Minute Duty-Free Lunch

A minimum of thirty minutes duty-free lunch shall be provided each day including rainy day schedule (MUSD-MTA Contract Article IV, Section H, page 5.)

No meetings or activities may be scheduled during bargaining unit members' thirty-minute duty-free lunch time. If a meeting is scheduled during lunch and following the thirty-minute duty-free time, that time is considered meeting minutes within the board day.

Contact a Building Rep or the MTA office if you believe the thirty-minute duty-free lunch right and law is being violated.