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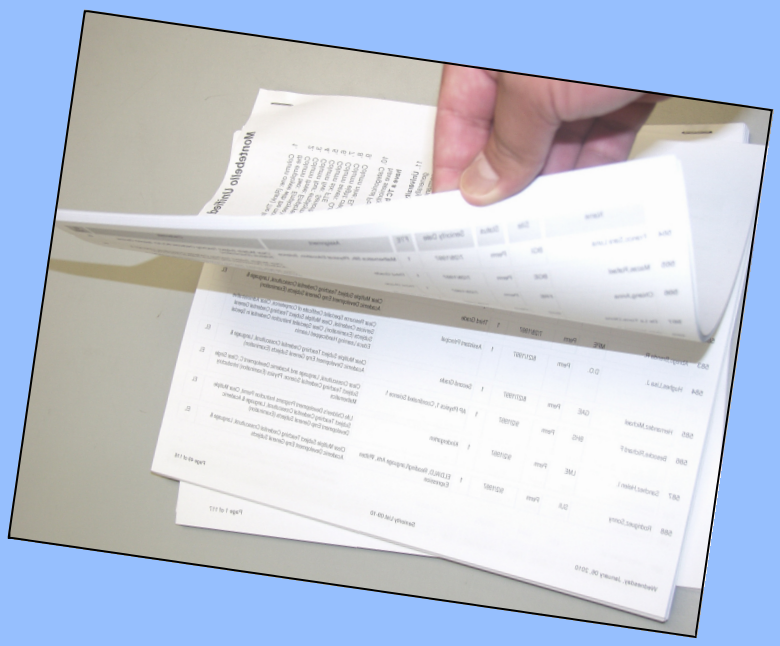
Board of Education Taking Steps to Cut $12 Million in 2010-2011

The Board of Education will meet Thursday, January 21 at 7 p.m. The agenda will include the first steps toward a Reduction In Force (RIF or "lay-off"). The Board is expected to approve the elimination of 170 positions in 2010-2011. The majority of the positions are the result of discontinuing the class size reduction program in kindergarten through third grade.

What Does the Seniority List Have to Do With a RIF

The District is mandated by law to lay-off members of the Montebello Teachers Association according to "seniority" beginning with the first date of "probationary service." The seniority list is an opportunity for employees to dispute and correct the District's information.



If the Board of Education pursues a RIF, the next step would be to send notices to employees no later than March 15. The Montebello Teachers Association would then represent the employees in a hearing in April. At the hearing a CTA attorney would represent each teacher on the procedural aspects of the lay-off. Ultimately, a "rehire list" would be created, and employees would be "called back" according to seniority on the list.

Once again, the Association will attempt to mitigate the possibility of RIFS. Past negotiated solutions have included retirement incentives, retraining, and transfers.

California's Education Budget Continues to Be Decimated

In the past two years, California policymakers have repeatedly cut funding for K-12 schools as part of the overall budget solution, affecting funding for both 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.

- The 2007-2008 State Proposition 98 entitlement was **$50.3 billion**.
- The initial 2008-2009 Proposition 98 entitlement was **$51.6 billion**.
- The 2008-2009 entitlement was later cut **to $44.7 billion**.
- And, ultimately reduced to **$43.1 billion** in 2008-2009.
- The 2009-2010 State Proposition 98 entitlement began at **$48.3 billion**.
- And, is currently reduced to **$44.6 billion** for the current year.

The volatile nature of the State's financial collapse has forced the District to substantially reduce spending over the past few years. Additionally, the District has continued to decline in enrollment which has resulted in more painful cuts.