

Council Voice Concerns Regarding School Bond at this Time

Following a lengthy discussion at Council Tuesday, February 23, the Council voted to withhold endorsement of the Board of Education proposed facilities bond. While it was noted that the District is in need of funds to maintain and improve buildings, the Council delineated concerns over the Board of Education's management of funds. Several issues emerged during the discussion.

- The District has received more money from the State than any year prior, and has reported there is no money available for vital classroom initiatives.
- The BOE awarded ample ongoing raises to the two highest paid employees: Contreras Smith and Pell.
- The Association is reviewing the greatly increased payment to Legal Council especially in the area of "expenses" for Kenney and Kropff. President Lorraine Richards is heading the investigation.
- The Chief Business Officer has said the two priorities of the District should be controlling the costs of special education and building reserves.
- And, reserves are needed to get the best possible bond rating.

The BOE had a special meeting to review placing a bond on the June ballot Thursday, February 25 and is expected take the final vote at the regular meeting March 3.



Organizing Chairperson Margie Granado (BAE) and Bargaining Chairperson David Navar (WGE) address Council.

Retirement Benefits Workshop March 8

The MTA Trust Fund and all retiree health benefits will be explained at the Retirement Benefits Workshop **Tuesday, March 8, 3:30 p.m.**

MTA Conference Center: 920 W. Whittier Blvd. No reservation is necessary.

Retirement Dinner Is May 20 at the Reef

The Association will honor retirees at a dinner in Long Beach **Friday, May 20.**

Applications for MOU Are Due April 22!

The District and the Association have developed a joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) form for banking minutes.

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 22. Forms and additional support materials are available at montebelloteachers.org. The Instructional Division at District Office is also available to answer questions.

If your site is considering applying for a waiver and will not have completed the process by April 25, please contact the MTA for information on how to proceed. Late applications may be accepted.

MTA Grievance Workshop Tuesday, March 15 at 5 p.m.

All are welcome to the MTA Grievance Workshop. Learn to process grievances at your school site. Past Bargaining Chairperson Gilbert Gomez (MHS) and Bargaining Chairperson David Navar (WGE) will review the grievance procedure in the contract and create simulations so Bargaining Unit members can practice skills.

The philosophy of the contract is to solve grievances at the lowest level possible. Trained grievance reps can correct misunderstandings and interpret the contract to quickly resolve grievances.

The workshop will be held at the MTA CC and offers 2 hours of District Salary Credit. Dinner will be served. To RSVP send an email to MTA@montebelloteachers.org.



Bargaining Update

Due to unforeseen circumstances, MTA cancelled negotiations on Thursday, February 25. Tentatively, bargaining is scheduled to resume March 2.

