

# MONTEBELLO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Representative Council Meeting

February 23, 2010

## CALL TO ORDER

February's Rep Council meeting was called to order at 3:46 p.m.

## GUEST - Marty Meedan - CTA Director

Marty Meedan, from Palmdale District, passed along greeting from CTA Directors. He shared that he enjoyed working with Margie Granado and having dialogues with Dianne and Brian. Marty answered questions from members concerning RTTT and on excise tax on "Cadillac" health plans.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dianne GarciaStevens

1. Dianne presented petitions that were given rep chairs. She asked members to gather signatures to turn into CTA to qualify for ballot. Completed petitions were to be brought to MTA office. Dianne shared initiatives that CTA is supporting such as the California Corporate Loophole Repeal Initiative and those CTA is opposing the Public Employee Paycheck Protection Act.
2. Perfect attendance information is on MTA website. Today is last day to turn in Blanche Chester Award. Declarations for NEA RA are also due.
3. Dianne introduced officers of elections committee. They are Gloria Cunningham (WIE), Wendy Ibanez (BVE), Ben Chavez (LMI). Motion was made by Linda Camacho to accept officers. It was seconded by Patti Knapp. Members accepted officers unanimously.
4. Dianne reported that at last Board meeting the RIF authorization was pulled as well as counselor reduction. The Board and administrators will be having study session this Saturday, March 4. Dianne will keep us informed. Superintendent will take 5% reduction in salary and encouraging his cabinet to do the same.

## BUDGET UPDATE - R. Rice

Ryan Rice presented MTA Budget. Trends in the report included an increase in dues and money coming in from rental income. Ryan pointed out that affiliation expenses are up and leadership training expense was less this year. Office operation is down this year.

## REVENUE & EXPENSE OPEN HEARING - L. Richards

Report for this quarter was found on rear of February 22 *Contact*. Lorraine focused on cost avoidance and facilities update. Derrick Williams provided cost avoidance information. During month of December the top school was MOI (60%) followed by JGE (45%) and BVE (45%).

The Applied Technology Center is in process. JGE is next project, with bid accepted, that the district will focus on. District needs to recruit Measure M Citizen Bonds Oversight Committee. SHS is out to bid for pool contract.

## SEATING OF ALTERNATES

There were no alternates present at this council.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Agenda was adopted as written.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were approved by Chris Low (MOI), Rita Galvan (PHE), and Ben Chavez (LMI).

## **REPORTS, DISCUSSION OR ACTIONS**

### 1. Bargaining Update– A. Shinn, K. Schlotz

Dianne reminded members of last year's special election concerning propositions 1a and 1f. Because they were not passed we are in the situation we are today. What does that mean to Montebello? Dianne shared that we have visited sites to gather bargaining input. Bargaining Team will start negotiations on March 5. We intend to follow CTA's plan which is to protect, mitigate and restore.

Andy and Kathy presented data that demonstrated how the State's Budget has impacted Montebello Unified. Data presented by Kathy and Andy demonstrated that the district is receiving less money because certain programs will no longer be funded. Declining enrollment compounds loss. Federal money was utilized to backfill some programs.

Instructional year is 180 days. Law says that now we can have 175 days, that is where idea of furlough days comes from. The district has also suspended money to purchase new adoptions. Kathy gave example of other districts going broke. There are new requirements so districts do not go bankrupt. Districts need to develop a plan for the forthcoming three years. Montebello Unified has \$46 million in bank. Projected revenue and expense plans to spend more than receive. We are currently \$14 million in deficit. The following year starts with less. We don't know what will happen. The State has underfunded the district in a time of declining enrollment. The PowerPoint presentation is on MTA website.

A big piece that was negotiated was the retirement incentive. Also district is looking at different colleges to have teachers trained to teach at other positions at middle school and high school to offset RIFs. At first it was 85 multiple subject credentials and now 85 positions including teachers and administrators. It has to be retirement for June for program to function. We have 6 now, and we need 79. March 10 is the deadline. If administration is pushing members to participate in program please contact MTA. The 2+2 cannot be used for RIF purposes.

### 2. Organizing Report- C. Ramirez, H. Perez

Dianne shared history lesson she had shared at last Board meeting. In the surveying of land in year 1785, land was set aside for education because of its importance. Now the Governor of California projects \$2.4 billion cuts. Schools aren't broken they are broke.

Cecelia Ramirez gave a March 4 rally update. California is cutting funds to education and corporations are getting tax breaks. Kids are suffering. We need to stand together. The purpose of first event is to engage members, parents, and community. Each

school site needs to organize own rally. We need to promote solidarity amongst all staff members, and should include administrators. Try not to involve the students. The second event will be a funeral march to Montebello Park. Dianne and President of Board, David Vela, will deliver a eulogy. Contact information was passed out. AMSA is also involved.

3. TC, Prob, and RIF Update - K. Schlotz

Kathy reported that certain mechanisms have to start. One was that all TC's were released. District says they all have been released. No TC should write a letter of resignation. That does not mean they will not get a job. Some administrators let TC's know about job opportunities.

A prob is allowed to resign. Why resign? Do employers ask? Yes. Many choose to resign in lieu of being non-reelected. Date of letter is March 4. District is looking at completion of form. Some still can receive employment insurance.

Is there going to be a RIF? There will be a study session on Saturday. Many Board members say they do not want a RIF, but we need to be prepared. Letters will be out by March 12. We will have meeting on March 15 for those who may be RIFed, or we might have ratification meeting. A *Layoff Survival Guide* was presented to explain RIF process. If interested, it is available on CTA website.

4. State Council Update - State Council Representatives

Margie- She reported that normally, friendly incumbents are no longer friendly incumbents, specifically those who supported RTTT. In the next *California Educator* a "Stand Up For Schools" cling for car windows will be enclosed.

Ed- He reported that there was no new legislation in March. He did share that he co-sponsored new business item regarding adult education. CTA supports Obama's proposal to fund community colleges to offset losses in Adult Education.

Julian- He shared quote by Winston Churchill, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." We are in a bad situation. If we work together we can make a difference. Julian shared that one third of American teachers will be retired. Why is America bailing out banking and the automotive industry and not bailing out our education system? March 4 is very important date. We need to arouse public to show that we do care. There is movement in this country to promote charter schools that are disguised as public schools. CTA is supporting act that all charter schools must adhere to the same requirements as public schools. We must protect, mitigate, and restore. We need your support and your ideas.

Dianne- She reported that our CalSTRS retirement funds are in good standing. You can look at CalSTRS website for more information. CalSTRS can fund all the plans for employees.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dianne shared Los Angeles Marathon volunteer information. Volunteer will meet at Water station at mile 7 on March 21.

Three gifts were handed out at this council.

1. Jon Kawaharada (VHS) and Lisa Quemada (MOI) won Midas gift certificates.
2. Salvador Sarmiento (RPE) won mystery gift.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Submitted by,



Guillermo Sandoval, Secretary

