

# MONTEBELLO TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Representative Council Meeting

March 16, 2010

## CALL TO ORDER

Rep Council meeting was called to order at 3:43 p.m.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dianne GarciaStevens

1. Dianne thanked everyone for participating in the March 4<sup>th</sup> Rally. Dianne thanked Organizing Committee Co-chairs Cecilia Ramirez and Horacio Perez for planning event. Crystal Diaz (BHS) provided the “Got Teacher” shirts.  
We have to continue the momentum by filling out petitions and repealing corporate tax loop initiatives. Members can attend Lobby Day in Sacramento and visit with legislators on May 25. Members will have to pay their own way. CTA will provide food.
2. Retirement incentive has been extended to April 26<sup>th</sup>. Currently we have 37 and need only 10 more to make it go. It was extended because members are trying to facilitate meetings with STRS.
3. Spoke to Art Revueltas, associate superintendent, today about where fifth grade will be next year. District is still mulling over the idea. We will have a feel of what will happen at April 1st board meeting. District will study how it affects the three QIEA schools.
4. District is trying to move on having electronic report cards. District will pilot system at one school. The next step will be how to implement standards on report cards.
5. Transfers, volunteer program along with retirement made it possible to avert RIFs. More specific information can be found in the “Report from our President” that was handed out at this council meeting. Dianne shared that she can handle people being angry if she can see members here next year. MTA has been working with Art Revueltas who is making this possible.
6. Voluntary transfer program is still in effect. Brochure was provided during today’s council meeting and is available at MTA office. Members need to send information to human resources by April 15th. There were 40 participants who took advantage of voluntary transfer program. There is an internship in special education at Cal State LA made available to all members, including TCs. This is an opportunity to become permanent. Contact Jill Rojas for more information. Members have until March 27<sup>th</sup> to enroll. Assignments will be available by May to members in voluntary transfer program. Members can go on website to fill out preference of sites.

## 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 Kakimi (BGH), Pat Mendoza (WAE), and Kim Arvizu (PHE).

## **REPORTS, DISCUSSION OR ACTIONS**

### **1. Bargaining – A. Shinn**

Andy reintroduced bargaining team. At meetings during last couple of weeks the bargaining team has been concentrating on avoiding RIFs. The goal is to save jobs. Andy was at bargaining summit and shared that other districts have had RIFs. It was important to have member's input and ideas to bring to bargaining meeting. He thanked everyone for welcoming Executive and Bargaining Committee members to different sites. Andy shared bargaining goals and priorities, and also answered questions from members. Montebello Unified was not on list of underperforming schools. Overall there were 188 schools in California on that list.

### **2. Insurance - J. De La Torre**

Julian shared that his daughter is a kindergarten teacher in Fullerton. She received a RIF notice. Her district did not hold any demonstrations against RIFs. She wishes she were in this district. We are going to protect working conditions, benefits and salary. The members of the Insurance Committee have a common goal and its mission is to provide best insurance at best price. We have been fortunate to have a good program. To make it better, it must be made easier to navigate system. The committee is currently developing a "Fast Facts" for insurance information. If members have questions do not call CalPERS. It is necessary to call insurance company directly. Julian shared questions from members at committee and answered questions from members.

### **3. NEA Report - Margie Granado NEA Board Director**

Margie shared that ESEA Blueprint Report was released on Saturday. Dennis Van Roekel, NEA president, has been working with his team to analyze the report. He said that draft came out and we should not be happy. The ESEA blueprint looks the same as previous NCLB policies, which focus was solely on reading and math. It is creating a system with winners and losers. CTA and NEA cannot support report at this time. We will lobby in the near future.

Dianne shared that we need to be aware of this information because it will affect us. Dianne Ravitch, former US Assistant Secretary of Education, has good literature on this situation. She originally supported NCLB and charter schools during Bush administration, but is now at opposite end. Her book is titled, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education*.

### **4. Election - C. Reed**

Results of NEA-RA Delegate Election will be known at a later date.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Grievance Workshop - A. Shinn, T. SalasOrtiz  
Tuesday, March 30, 3:30-5:30 at LMI
2. Voluntary Transfer Brochure
3. Lily Lamar (GWE) won gift certificate.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Submitted by,



Guillermo Sandoval



Marie Gutierrez Stefanovich (JGE)  
Beverly Bunto WAB