

Bargaining Update



Negotiations Postponed Following MOU on Insurance Contribution

The Board and the Association agreed upon a District Insurance Contribution and postpone negotiations. The District's insurance contribution will be raised from \$8098 to \$9467 annually beginning July 1, 2004. This memorandum resolves the largest concern facing negotiations. Salary will be deferred to February 2005.

Will This Contribution Solve the Insurance Issue For All Time?

No. But it will help tremendously. Consider the following.

- The Blue Cross rate increased by more than 60% between the 1998-1999 and 2003-2004 insurance years while the contribution increased by only about 11%.
- This MOU increases the contribution from \$8098 to \$9467. The new amount is still less than the \$9822 current average cost yet, it decreases the deficit spending substantially.
- With the increased contribution the fund will have approximately \$2 million at the end of this year which will allow the insurance committee considerable latitude in determining 2005-2006 benefits.

CTA Scholarship Applications Are Available

CTA has recently announced that applications are now being accepted for 2005 scholarships for members and their children. There are three categories of scholarships.

1. CTA Scholarships for Members - Five \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded.
2. CTA Scholarships for Dependent Children (includes D. A. Weber Scholarship for students attending continuation and alternative education high schools that plan to continue their education in a higher education institution) - Twenty-five \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded.
3. L. Gordon Bittle Memorial Scholarship - Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to Student CTA members.

Each scholarship requires a separate application, letters of recommendation and verification of membership. In order to be eligible for consideration, all forms must be postmarked by **Friday, February 18**. Applications and additional information are available at the MTA office or cta.org.

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