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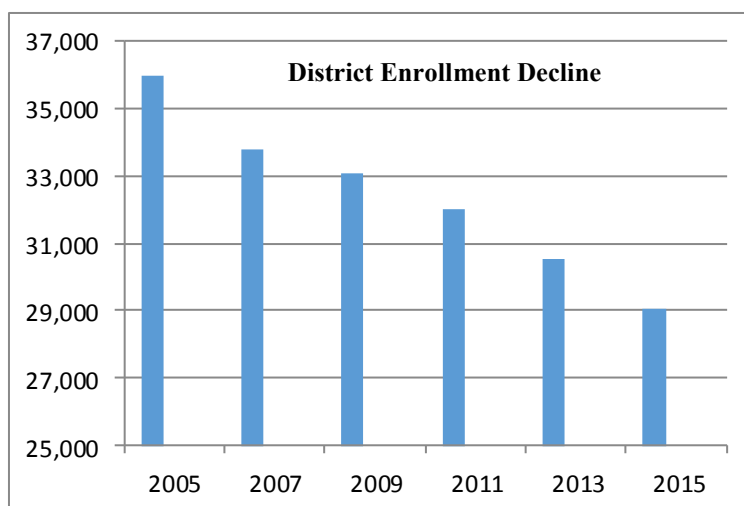
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District Enrollment Continues to Decline Parents List Kindergarten Schedule as Reason to Leave District

The Montebello Unified School District has experienced declining enrollment for the past decade. The State funding to the District is calculated on the number of students. Thus, fewer students means less money.

The Revenue and Expense (R&E) Committee meets monthly. The Association designates three members and an alternate: Chairperson Filiberto Arizmendi (MOA), Ryan Rice (ATC), Lorie Autenrieth (MAI), and Alternate Alma Orta (SUE). CSEA and the District also each name three members for a total of nine voting members on the committee.

Members of the R&E Committee have been asking questions about the enrollment decline. One issue has been the number of permits the District approves for leaving the District. This year 133 permits were granted to kindergarten and transitional kindergarten parents. The District must approve waiver requests for programs that are not currently in MUSD. A similar number of permits have been granted during the past many years. The permit is good for as long as the child is in elementary school at the new district. In other words, once a student changes districts, it is unusual for the student to return to MUSD. And, the same is true for the student's siblings. Filiberto Arizmendi reported this issue to Council Tuesday, March 17 and published information regarding permits in the R&E Report February 24. He also reported to the Board of Education Thursday, March 19.

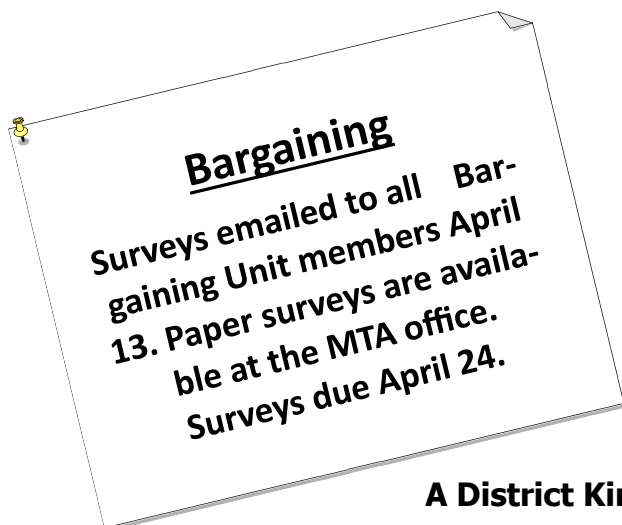


Given these findings, the District expressed interest in full day kindergarten and transitional kindergarten. The Association was invited to a meeting Monday, March 23. Vice President Margie Granado (K teacher at BAE), Secretary Alma Orta (K teacher at SUE), and Elementary Director Kathy Arriola (K teacher at WAE) represented the Association along with R&E Chairman Filiberto Arizmendi (MOA), Bargaining Chairperson David Navar (WGE), and Executive Director Kathy Schlotz.

The issues that were defined at that meeting were:

- Class size maximums conforming with the State goal of 24:1.
- Kindergarten and transitional kindergarten planning time.
- Outdoor learning opportunities including appropriate storage, play equipment, and supervision.
- Starting the school year with a shorter day for students and transitioning into a longer day.
- The option for any kindergarten or transitional kindergarten teacher to be reassigned or transferred if preferred not to work the longer kindergarten day.

Bargaining Chairperson David Navar and Executive Director Kathy Schlotz met with Deputy Superintendent Art Revueltas and Asst. Superintendent of Human Resources Jill Rojas to discuss the issues. Neither the MTA Executive Committee nor the Board of Education have made any additional agreements on this issue.



A District Kindergarten Issues Meeting is set for Monday, April 20

3:30 p.m. at the DO Board Room

Over, please...

