



# Contact

Montebello Teachers Association/California Teachers Association • 918 W. Whittier Blvd. Montebello CA • (323) 722-5005 • montebelloteachers.org

## *No Confidence Resolution Presented*

### Members Shut Out & Resolution Not Accepted by BOE

President Lorraine Richards presented a RESOLUTION OF NO CONFIDENCE against SUPERINTENDENT CONTRERAS SMITH to the Board of Education at a meeting Thursday, June 23. The resolution was passed unanimously by Council, Tuesday, June 7. The Resolution “charges the Board of Education with taking swift and decisive action, including termination of the employment of Susanna Contreras Smith, to restore the confidence of all stakeholders, including staff, students and their families, in district leadership...” The Resolution is available on Montebelloteachers.org.

**Board President Ben Cardenas response was** “You know while we respectfully receive a resolutions today, I think it’s important to understand that this Board doesn’t, doesn’t necessarily accept it. You know, we don’t accept the type of sentiment that comes behind this. You know, we, truly believe it’s not representative of our students. It doesn’t set a good example to them, it doesn’t reflect the entire...who we are as a school district. I know it’s been a very difficult year because its transformational and sometimes, you know, things are difficult but it doesn’t necessarily mean that change needed.”

The Board meeting exemplified the issues responsible for the Resolution of No Confidence. Rather than listen to members of the Association and community the Board and Superintendent attempted to shut out the issues by employing counter organizing techniques.

- The parking lot opened to the community at 5 p.m. The Board Room was filled to capacity with a large majority of administrators by 4:55 p.m. **Armed police officers denied entrance to members.** (The Association has asked for a larger venue for meetings in writing, at Board meetings, and in personal meetings with the Superintendent and members of the Board of Education.)
- More than 100 members took time off from summer break to attend the meeting and talk about issues. Members of the Board of Education and the Superintendent responded to protestors, speakers, and the unanimous Resolution with prepared speeches on how well things are going in the District. Even when Eastmont Intermediate School employees and community announced the **“Vote of No Confidence” against Principal Cecelia Ramirez**, the BOE was adamant that the District was never better.
- Further dividing employees, **six principals and Chief of Police Lin Dinh made “public comment”** listing the successes at their sites and “thanking” the superintendent.
- Meanwhile, Montebello Intermediate School parents were told they could not all speak or enter the Board Room. **There was only time for one representative to address the BOE.**
- Contreras Smith spoke for 11 minutes on her accomplishments as Superintendents without once mentioning her post negotiations letter to parents stating, **“The goal of the union leadership during the negotiations is to mislead the public in order to pressure the School Board into increasing the average teacher salary to nearly \$100,000 per year for 10 months of work. Keep in mind that the average mediate household income in our hard working community is \$50,000 for 12 months work.”** She also did not mention that she earns \$265,000 per year.

#### MTA Officer and CTA State Council Election June 14-21, 2016

##### Support Staff Director (One Year Term)

David Keys..... 76

Guillermo Sandoval ..... 144

\*Melina Valenzuela ..... 163

##### CTA State Council Representative (One Year Term)

\*Paul Chavez.....281

Edward Ned Parsons .....99

\* Indicates elected

**IGNORING THE ISSUES IS THE PROBLEM, NOT THE SOLUTION.** Rejecting concerns will certainly create and intensify animosity within this District.

