

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

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Bargaining Teams Met August 13



Representatives for the School Board and the Association met to negotiate for the first time this year Monday, August 13. The Association teams is led by Chairperson Larry McKiernan (SUI). His team includes Paul Chavez (SHS), Gabriela Gonzalez Orozco (MGE), David Navar (WGE), and Jessica Zwaal (MAI). Executive Director Kathy Scholz advises the team.

The Board's team is led by Student Services Director Ricardo Mendez along with legal council Adrianna Guzman. The Board's Team includes Todd Macy and Bibi Alvarado from District Office, ATC Principal Leticia Alvidrez, and MAI Principal Jacinto Zavala. The Association surveyed members last winter and opened

Article IV. Hours and Assignments
 Article VIII. Class Size
 Article X. Organizational Security
 Article XII. Wages
 Article XVI. Leaves

Article XVII. Safety, Security, and General Work Conditions
 New Article on Employee Orientation and Information



The Board of Education opened every article in contract. **That's 32 articles!**

A proposal was presented regarding Article III. Recognition at Monday's session. Negotiations were scheduled for August 30, September 6, September 27, October 4, October 18, November 15, November 29, and December 13.

Court Case and Audits Implicate Board and Administration

Board Loses to Smith and Pell: Former Superintendents Susanna Contreras Smith and Cleve Pell won a wrongful termination case against the District in Civil Court. Smith (awarded \$2.7 million) and Pell (awarded \$567,665) contended they were whistleblowers who lost their jobs for coming forward about alleged misconduct by former Chief Business Officer Ruben J. Rojas. School Board members Lani Cupchoy and Benjamin Cardenas will each pay \$1 in punitive damages to each of the plaintiffs. The District will pay for the attorneys for Smith and Pell.

FCMAT Audit Reveals Issues in Adult Education Program: The Financial Crisis Management Team (FCMAT) released an Extraordinary Audit focused on Adult Education. The report had only one recommendation:

The county superintendent should: Notify the governing board of the Montebello Unified School District, the state controller, the superintendent of public instruction, and the local district attorney that fraud or misappropriation of district funds and/or assets may have occurred.

FCMAT Audit Will Reveal Bond and Facilities Issues: FCMAT is expected to release audits on Facilities and Bonds in the next few days.