

PAEA **BUZZZ**

MARCH 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PALO ALTO EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Obviously these are unprecedented economic times. The two negotiation teams met twice in the past two weeks to seek a reasonable compensation package that helps us retain and attract the most talented people to our classrooms. The district was committed to honoring the agreement we made in the fall. We signed a tentative agreement subject to contract ratification by members and approval by the Board of Education. The agreement calls for a 2.5% increase on the salary schedule and a 2.5% off the salary schedule one time payment for this 2008-2009 year. As part of this agreement PAEA has agreed to sunset the retiree medical benefits for member who join the district after June 1, 2009. We are all concerned with the economic future of the District. Medical retiree benefits threaten the finances of many school districts and governmental agencies in California and around the nation.

THE CALIFORNIA EDUCATION BUDGET

California has passed a budget. Cuts to education over the next two years will total \$11.6 billion. Some further details: Class Size Reduction - reduced penalties when districts go over.

•20.5 to 21.5	5%
•21.5 to 22.5	10%
•22.5 to 23	15%
•23 to 25	20%
•25 and over	30%

There are cuts to some categorical funds. Here in Palo Alto we will have \$1,000,000 in cuts this year and \$300,000 in cuts next year. These numbers are dependent upon the success of six initiatives placed on the ballot for May 19 which will allow the state to fund education next year.

PALO ALTO PROPERTY TAXES

Last year our property tax growth level was approximately 10%. We do not know what next year's tax rolls will bring in but we do have some information. Property tax growth is in the 3% range for 2009-2010. However that number could move in either direction. Santa Clara County will be reassessing 200,000 properties. This includes parcels purchased in the last 5 to 7 years which may have dropped from the purchase value. The owners of those properties are entitled to a refund. These refunds would negatively impact the District's income.

Some approximate numbers to keep in mind:

- 1% on the salary schedule is 1 million dollars
- 1% of property tax revenue is 1 million dollars
- 10% increase in health benefits is 1.4 million dollars
- 1% growth in enrollment is 1 million dollars



California's public schools, colleges and universities are facing more than \$11 billion in state budget cuts. These cuts are going to impact an entire generation of kids and alter public education for years to come.

March 13 is the deadline for school districts to issue preliminary pink slips to California's teachers. Thus far 16,087 teachers have lost their jobs.

Wear pink on Friday, March 13 to show your support for public schools, students and educators.

YOUR RETIREMENT

THE THREAT

There is a new threat to teacher's retirement. Initiative # 1350 titled, Re-negotiation of Public Employee Pension Contracts was presented to the Secretary of State on January 21, 2009.

This initiative proposes to allow the re-negotiation of all public employee retirement contracts including current and prospective employees.

It would allow the reduction of retirement benefits currently guaranteed by PERS , STRS or other retirement systems in California. It would effect all public employees and current retirees.

It will not be on the spring ballot but may be on the next general election ballot. Stay tuned for more information.

THE FACTS

We hear a lot about the cost of public retirement packages. You should know that there is a lot to be proud of in Cal STRS.

According to a study conducted by The National Institute on Retirement Security, Defined Benefit (DB) plans such as CalSTRS provide significant savings to employees , employers and tax payers due to economies that stem from investment pooling, risk pooling and longevity. (see www.nirsonline.org)

CalSTRS is 88% self funded at this point. This makes it one of the strongest pension funds in the nation. The majority of STRS assets are generated by investment earnings not taxpayer dollars. However for every \$1 contributed by California taxpayers approximately \$8 is returned to the local and state economy through taxes paid or other economic activity.



PAEA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Triona Gogarty trionago@gmail.com Note New email address
Vice-President	Dave Tomatis
Secretary	Amanda Gantley
Treasurer	Robert Siu
Members-at-Large	Kay Gibson, Annette Isaacson, Betty Krumboltz
CTA Field Rep	Bill Empey
Membership Chair	Cheryl Tsuruda

Executive Board Nominations

PAEA elections are coming up. You will receive a form to nominate a colleague for a position on the ballot. Please consider being a part of your association's leadership. All positions are open.

Did You Know?

Article XI deals with leaves. It covers everything from personal illness to sabbaticals to catastrophic leave bank.

Reporting an Absence - If a teacher is to be away from his/her job whether it is for a period or a day the absence needs to be called in or reported to the direct supervisor. This protects the teacher from liability and establishes a responsible teacher of record. This is the certificated person in charge of the students in that classroom for the length of time the assigned teacher is not there.

Sabbaticals - The District has not had the funds for sabbaticals for a number of years.

Catastrophic Leave Bank - Joining this voluntary leave bank allows a member teacher to request up to sixty(60) days of paid sick leave when their own accumulated sick leave is exhausted. It only costs one sick day to join and can be a great benefit in time of need.

Leaves without Pay - The deadline for requesting a leave without pay is March 31.

Mar. Rep Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 3/12 4:00–6:00 PM at Ohlone School. Hosts Kim Prescott & Ashley McCrea.

Educators Professional Center will be closing by the end of this school year. There are tables and chairs etc. available to be donated to the schools. Please contact the center's secretary Judy Grometer - 967-6810 or email edprofctr@aol.com

Site Reps for 08-09

Addison- Teri Baldwin	Barron Park Rusty Tooley	Briones Mary Goodkind Joanne Soraghan	Children's Hospital Kevin Danie	Duveneck Mangla Oza Doug Burress	El Carmelo Diane McCoy
Escondido Richard Garcia Amanda Dungan	Fairmeadow Barbara Carlson Valerie Sabbag	Greendell Marion Krause	Hays Rachel Shepherd Kevin Rouse	Hoover Lonnie Spencer Peter Lee	Nixon Beryl Deremigio Janice Mulholland
Ohlone Kim Prescott Ashley McCrea	Palo Verde Pat Hanley Sheri Cundall	Traveling/Music BJ Floersheim	Traveling/PE Karen Dolkas	25 churchill open	
Terman Lynn Repetsky Mark Dungan Martin Vetter Tijen Sambul	JLS Julia Brown Bobbie Whiteman Tim Sato Liz Walton Linda Howard	Jordan Millie Balsam	Gunn G. Garger Yukie Hikida Judy Niizawa	PALY Eric Bloom Magdalena Rivera	

If you would like to be a Representative for your site contact Triona Gogarty. There are once a month meetings for which you receive a stipend. Each site can have more than one representative and rep. positions can be shared.