



# FROM THE TABLE

An update from the AEA Bargaining Team

May 17, 2017

The AEA and AUSD bargaining teams sat down for an afternoon session on Monday, May 15. This was the first meeting since the release of the Governor's revised budget for 2017-18. District CBO Shariq Kahn joined the meeting and shared that the May revised numbers included modest increases over the initial January budget in what districts can expect in both ongoing (COLA increased from 1.48% to 1.56%) and one-time funds.

The District also presented a counter to our Article 8: Teaching Hours proposal, with the caveat they had not yet been given direction from the Board of Education regarding some elements of our initial proposal.

The May revised budget date and the pace of bringing counter proposals to the table are examples of the challenge that the bargaining team faces this spring regarding timing. In addition, District staff and the Board of Ed. are understandably devoting much of their time and attention to the Lum school decision, which may be further slowing the negotiating process.

For the past two years, AEA has brought Tentative Agreements to the membership in the last weeks of the school year. This bargaining team recognizes that this not an ideal practice, as we put members in the position of having to make a decision with only a few days to read and digest the new language. On the other hand, going back to the table in the fall means waiting weeks or months to see raises or other language that would benefit our members. For example, we are hoping to bring much needed small group instruction time back to kindergarten, a change which will take some time to put in place and would be best implemented to start the year.

So while we know that both the school year and the ratification window are soon drawing to a close, the bargaining team will continue this month with the mindset that the two sides can come to an agreement. However, we want to reassure our members that we have no interest in bringing a tentative agreement to the table that is not in everyone's best interests.

## Your AEA Bargaining Team

Judith Klinger, Alameda High

Jessica Downs, Alameda High

Glenda McDowell, Maya Lin Elem.

Ron Parodi, Encinal Jr. - Sr. High

Tara Yudenfreund, Ruby Bridges Elem.

David Hernandez, CTA

## Scheduled Bargaining Sessions

Thursday, May 25

Tuesday, May 30

Tuesday, June 6

Both sides recognize that this final date would be too late to bring a Tentative Agreement to the membership, and is reserved in case we need to make plans to carry talks over into next school