



Carl Toliver
Superintendent

701 North Madison Street • Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 933-7070 • Fax (209) 933-7071

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gloria Allen
Angel Jimenez, Jr.
David Varela
Jose A. Morales
Sal Ramirez
Sara Cazares
Steve Smith

BARGAINING UPDATE

The State of California continues to be in a severe fiscal crisis, which has resulted in a \$28.3 million dollar shortfall in funding for Stockton Unified.

Since May 2010, the District has been open and clear with its various stakeholders, including our eight union leaders, about the budget challenges faced by this organization in large part as a result of the State's systemic budget problems. We can no longer rely on one-time money – as we have in the last three years – to sustain this level of spending. Starting back in 2008-09, throughout the state, school districts and their labor unions have agreed to concessions to help resolve budget shortfalls. Up to this point, Stockton Unified has not asked for concessions from any of our labor unions until now.

This District is in a precarious and dangerous fiscal situation. It must meet statutory deadlines outlined by the State to provide a balanced budget for the upcoming and subsequent fiscal years (2011-12 to 2013-14). The District has provided a series of economic proposals to each bargaining unit that would allow the District to close that budget deficit. The District has also taken steps to layoff approximately 500 employees. Unless the District can reach agreement with every bargaining unit we will have to follow through on most of the layoffs approved by the Board on February 22, 2011. On the other hand, if concessions of all groups are reached the vast majority of notices associated with the budget deficit may be rescinded. Otherwise, the District must follow through on the layoff.

The District has offered a series of economic proposals that includes a 7% reduction in pay and 5 reduced work days in 2011-12 and then starting in 2012-13 an additional 3.7% for a total of a 10.7% reduction in pay and 5 reduced work days. These are the concessions necessary to ensure that the District is able to remain fiscally solvent over the next three years. Since providing these proposals earlier this year we have received two counterproposals – all of which are asking for a salary increase plus additional stipends. Instead of recognizing the severity of the State and District budget problem, bargaining units are choosing to ignore this and ask for salary increases.

Over the last nine months staff, in the Business Services Office repeatedly made themselves available to union leadership or anyone that might have questions concerning the validity of the financial troubles facing this District. Until two weeks ago no one from the District's bargaining units took advantage of the invitation. The District's bargaining teams have gone to great lengths to explain the budget problems faced by this District at the bargaining table and provided any and all necessary, relevant information. In fact, the District has provided or made available approximately 2,000 pages of documents to the Stockton Teachers Association (STA) bargaining team in response to their requests for information. Also, the District provided the California School Employee Association (CSEA) Chapter 821 documentation that exceeded some 8,000 pages.

The District remains committed to bargaining in good faith and working with all stakeholders to find a solution to the fiscal crisis.