



# AD NOTES



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## **GGUSD Modernization Bond**

On Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, the GGUSD Board of Education unanimously agreed to ask voters to consider a \$250 million general obligation bond for large-scale school renovations. The Board's adoption of the formal resolution authorized the placement of the bond measure on the June 8, 2010 statewide primary election ballot. The Board action was taken after months of planning and analysis that included the most comprehensive facilities study ever undertaken by the school district.

By the end of this school year, over half of the district schools will be over 50 years old. To qualify for modernization, a building need only be 25 years old. Our schools are long over-due for this overhaul, despite the great work done by the District Maintenance Department. To pass, 55 percent or more of district voters would need to approve the measure. Current survey results show that about 65 percent of the voting community would be in favor of the measure.

If passed, the bond would allow the District to access up to \$200 million in state matching funds. Proceeds from the bond can be used for retrofitting schools for better disability access; repairing restrooms; renovating electrical circuitry, plumbing, lighting, roofing, intercom, and fire safety systems; improving energy efficiency; replacing doors, windows, and outdated heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems; updating or replacing elementary school playground equipment, and upgrading telecommunications systems to accommodate current technology. **GGEA will be an integral component in helping the bond pass as the District must take a neutral position and cannot use any District funds or time to help ensure its passage. If passed, the funds would help greatly improve our working environment and allow us to service our students better. If called upon, please take the time to participate in helping to rally community support.**

## **Contract Survey**

Thank you to the many teachers who took the time to complete the Contract Survey for the 2010-2011 school year. Almost 400 members left comments, a great sign of active participation within the Association. A special edition of the AdNotes will be published regarding the results of the survey as well clarification of certain points. The survey results will be used in editing of the 2010-2011 Bargaining Proposals as well as in the creation of next year's contractual calendar.

## Reauthorization of ESEA "No Child Left Behind"

The Obama administration recently announced its blueprint for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Unfortunately the current blueprint is lacking on many fronts. First, it continues to rely too heavily on standardized test scores. The continued focus on math and reading scores do nothing to help broaden our ever-narrowing curriculum. Secondly, it threatens to turn a steady stream of funding into a competitive process where there will be obvious winners and losers. A steady stream of funding is needed now more than ever as school districts across the nation continue to deal with reductions to their funding. Next, the Obama administration's proposal puts into law the four turnaround models for failing schools included in the Race to the Top Grant. These models are not research based and use the teachers as the scapegoat. **Politicians need to work collaboratively with educators, not make top-down decisions that will ultimately harm our students.**

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## Collaboration Schedules

March is the time of year that schools should be reviewing their collaboration plans. The contract requires that this be done annually. The collaboration plan needs to be approved by a majority of the staff through a vote. A teacher and the site administrator should count ballots. The plan needs to be submitted to the appropriate Assistant Superintendent of Education by April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions or concerns about the development of your collaboration schedule, please contact the GGEA Office.

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## 7-12 AERIES Gradebook Meeting

On Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, GGEA and Secondary Education/7-12 Instruction will hold an Open Forum Meeting to discuss the results of the AERIES Gradebook survey and address current and future support and training needs. Representatives from the Information Systems Department will be present at the meeting, which will be held from 3:15-4:45 at Hare, Building A. Any interested secondary teachers are invited to attend and represent their school in finding out more about AERIES status and next steps. This is an important meeting to help develop support for our teachers in the implementation of AERIES Gradebook.

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## NEA Representative Assembly Election

Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, will mark the last day to submit ballots to elect local and state representatives to attend the National Education Association (NEA) Representative Assembly (RA). The NEA RA is the governing body of NEA, similar to the GGEA Representative Council here at the local level. **Please take the time to vote on whom you believe should represent you at the national level. Also please support local GGEA representatives as California representatives.** As a reminder, it is very helpful for GGEA Site Reps to alphabetize the ballots before submittal to make the Rules and Elections Committee's task easier.

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**T.E.A.M. GGEA: "Together Everyone Achieves More"**