



NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE



October 13, 2009

2009-2010 Negotiations Commences

The GGEA Negotiations Team members met with CTA staff Tim Hill on September 23, for assistance in analyzing the GGUSD budget for this school year. Team members asked specific questions, examined historical trends within GGUSD, and heard Tim's view of the District's current and future financial status. This analysis and strategizing continued when the GGEA Team met for a preparation day on October 13th.

The Association and District teams met for the first time on October 1 to commence the 2009-2010 session of bargaining. New team members were introduced and each side clarified their initial bargaining proposals. The District's proposals were general statements about taking action to address the current state budget crisis for this year and next. The discussions were in broad terms and there were no agreements made about any specific actions that might be taken. **The District clearly stated they would like to make some cost-containment and cost-saving adjustments to our Health Benefits.** The team, in addition to some Board of Directors members, will meet with other GGUSD employee groups to hear a presentation about the philosophy of our current health care and a variety of different ways to save money.

The two teams will meet again on October 15. The discussion is expected to center around possible actions to cut expenditures. The teams utilize Interest Based Bargaining, which means they will brainstorm any and all alternatives and list the possible effects (both negative and positive) of each idea. Only after extensive discussions will the teams begin to discard any ideas.

RUMOR CONTROL: Already there have been rumors that the District and Association have agreed to furlough days. THIS IS NOT THE CASE! Based on the input of our members given through the Contract Survey and Rep Council, salary protection is the highest priority. The GGEA Board of Directors and Bargaining Team will continue to **“Protect, Mitigate, and Restore”**.

Many surrounding districts are already discussing salary cuts and furlough days. This only feeds the rumors stemmed from the uncertainty of the times. Please read your Negotiations Updates for the most current bargaining information. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact GGEA President Chris Francis at (714) 638-7480 or at cfrancis@ggea.org. This document and previous communications can be found on-line at www.ggea.org.