



BARGAINING UPDATE

October 12, 2011

Show Us the Money!

The AEA and District Bargaining Teams have met several times over the past few months. The focus has been **the restoration of previously negotiated** furloughs and salary cuts. As part of those previous agreements, “triggers” were put in place so that when we took furloughs/salary cuts, there were protections for restoration. Last year, two triggers were implemented which restored salary – excess ending balance money and federal revenues. We were able to restore all but four furlough days.

This year state funding allowed for us to receive back 2.19% and one furlough day. We were left with a 4.35% cut (8 furlough days) for this year.

The ending balances for the District are once again in excess of required reserves. The 2010-11 school year ended with nearly two and one half times the state required reserve! Our “trigger” calls for restoration using monies that exceed \$6.5 million. This amount provides the District with a more money than the state required reserve.

Considering the previous agreements, the District should automatically be restoring our pay at this point. But, as has happened in the past, the District does not want to fully pay us back. They instead want to continue to negotiate what has already been negotiated.

We want to be very clear: We have not asked for any amounts that are not ours and we are not asking for any money that would leave the District in a fiscal crisis. We have agreed to begin the next two years with a 4.35% pay cut, with triggers for restoration remaining in place. This will allow the District to maintain a balanced budget, but also pay us back if the “crisis” does not materialize.



(OVER)

The FACTS:

- May 2010 agreement trigger should restore salaries using any money over \$6.5 unrestricted ending balances. This would be approximately of **\$2.6 million** restored retroactive to July 1, 2011 and would equal about half of our current reductions.
- **We have agreed not to receive the restoration until after December 15th in case the state makes mid-year education funding cuts, with a retro check being issued on January 31, 2012. The four furlough days in January would remain as non-workdays and the four in June would be restored as work days.**
- **The District admits and acknowledges they owe us this money.** They want to give us **\$1.6 million**. The District wants to keep the additional money just in case there is a fiscal crisis down the road. We have said we could agree, but only if **GUARANTEES** are put in place for immediate restoration (not further negotiations) if the crisis does not materialize.

WE HAVE CONTINUED TO GIVE OUR FAIR SHARE AND MORE! WE HAVE SUFFERED WITH LARGER CLASS SIZES, LESS FOR SUPPLIES, ETC...AND MANY OF OUR COLLEAGUES REMAIN ON THE LAYOFF LIST...ALL THIS JUST ADDS TO THE SUFFERING!

The Superintendent said at a recent School Board meeting that we have given far more than our fair share and been affected the most by the cuts! So, now they need to make it right.

Sherri Lazzarini (Bargaining Chair) and **Leigh Hawkinson** (AEA President) will meet with District representatives tomorrow (October 13) in a last attempt to resolve these issues. If not successful, we will begin organizing to make our voices heard.

AEA Bargaining Team – Sheri Lazzarini (High School/Chair), Michael Kolonics (Middle School), Sherika Larkins (Elementary), Michelle Alianell (Auxiliary), Stephanie Shivers (At Large), Leigh Hawkinson (Ex Officio), Dan Bartlett (CTA Consultant) Russell Turner, Pye Cornejo & Mary Ryan (Alternates)

To email the Bargaining Team members go to our website at www.alvordeducators.com and click on “contact”.

