



# NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

*An informed membership is a powerful membership!*



1432 University Avenue | Berkeley CA 94702 | 510.549.2307 | bft4tchr@lmi.net | www.berkeleyfederationofteachers.org

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BFT's Bargaining Team: Cathy Campbell, Tracey Iglehart, Dale Long, Cynthia Allman, Janelle Bugarini, Aaron Glimme, Denise Milner, Ed Wang

## BUSD Offer Shows Slight Movement

In the most recent bargaining session on April 25<sup>th</sup>, BUSD brought a proposal that includes a 2% ongoing salary increase plus small one-time payments for 2012-13 (1%) and 2013-14 (1.5%). Although this represents some movement in the right direction, BFT believes this offer is still inadequate and that BUSD can afford to provide more for its employees.

### BFT Counterproposal for 4% Increase

BFT countered with a proposal that would provide a 4% ongoing compensation increase retroactive to July 1, 2012. The proposal leaves open the possibility that some of the new compensation could be applied to health care costs.

BFT's response noted major developments that have occurred in school finance since the beginning of April. First, the California Department of Education released funding projections that show funding for BUSD could grow by 39% over the next seven years under current law. Second, School Services of California, a prominent management advisory group, published a report saying Prop. 98 funding could be \$5.5 billion dollars greater than the amount in the Governor's proposed budget. Finally, Senate Democrats unveiled a school funding proposal that would provide even more money to Berkeley schools than the Governor proposed in January. Although details are not yet available, it is clear that under any reasonable budget scenario there will be more

ongoing funding available to BUSD in future years. Furthermore, there is still a very substantial Ending Fund Balance of approximately \$8 million.

BFT takes the fiscal health of the district very seriously. We are proud that our proposals reflect a strong understanding of the complex BUSD budget. Although uncertainties will always be a part of district budgeting, we are confident that with the large surplus and growing new revenues BUSD can afford our proposal.

Future sessions are scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> and May 28<sup>th</sup>.

### May 8<sup>th</sup>: All Members Asked to Attend Mass Mobilization

All members are asked to attend a joint BFT/BCCE mass mobilization at the School Board meeting on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Parents, principals and other BUSD employees are all encouraged to attend. We will rally on the steps of Old City Hall (2134 MLK Jr. Way) at 6:30 p.m. and then walk upstairs together to speak to the Board at their 7:30 p.m. meeting. We will stand together to press the district to provide meaningful increases in compensation to all employees.

We are hoping members can attend from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., but please come for some portion even if you cannot stay for this entire time. Please wear your BFT t-shirt or hoodie!

