



NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

An informed membership is a powerful membership!



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BFT's Bargaining Team: Cathy Campbell, Tracey Iglehart, Dale Long, Cynthia Allman, Marcela Taylor, Denise Milner, Ed Wang

Progress in Recent Bargaining Session

At the bargaining session held on March 14th, BUSD brought a compensation proposal that shifted the tone of the negotiations and made progress toward reaching an agreement. However, there is still a significant gap between what teachers need and what the district has offered.

Co-Superintendent Javetta Cleveland attended the session and gave her analysis of the district's budget. She assured BFT that she has listened to and heard the teachers and classified employees who have come to speak at the school board about the impact of declining take home pay, and that she understands the sacrifices they have made during the five-year budget "drought".

Negotiating team members reiterated that the District has the resources to fund needed raises. "BUSD has a large surplus and increasing revenues. It is time for them to spend those funds on the deferred needs of their employees," said BFT team member Cynthia Allman. "The only uncertainty is how much MORE money they will have next year," added Janelle Bugarini.

BFT will present a counterproposal to the most recent BUSD proposal on March 26th.

Many Thanks to BFT Members!

There can be no doubt that the activism and unity of BFT members during recent weeks made a huge impact on negotiations. One hundred twenty-five members, representing virtually every site, fanned out to local business districts on March 7th in a Teachers Across Berkeley action. Dozens of members have attended school board meetings. Many have spoken during public comment periods of their commitment to teaching, their passion for working in Berkeley and the challenges they are facing due to stagnant pay and increasing health benefits costs. BFT members have also met with PTAs at many sites and with community leaders to ask for their support. This show of union strength and organization pushed our need for a substantial compensation increase to the top of the agenda. Thanks for answering your union's call!

How You Can Help

BFT will be leafleting parents at all three Middle School Open House events. We need more volunteers willing to help for one hour at the middle school of your choice. Please email Britt Alamo at brittalamo@berkeley.net if you can help. She will send you an exact time and "meet up" location for the middle school you choose.