



Teachers Association of Long Beach, CTA/NEA

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UPDATE

Summer 2010

LAYOFFS, DISPLACEMENTS, AND JOBS FUND RECENT EVENTS RESULT IN STRESS, CONFUSION...AND SOME HOPE

Summer has been a time of uncertainty for many TALB members. The dislocation and job loss resulting from the financial cuts has impacted nearly every school and hundreds of TALB members. Many TALB members and leaders have also been busy writing letters, calling, and emailing to secure federal funds and stop more state education cuts. Here is a brief overview of recent developments.

LAYOFFS: The District proceeded with layoffs in July. The District then reduced the number of TALB members receiving a layoff by 200, in order to comply with the recent contract agreement. Since then, TALB has had a number of follow-up calls and correspondence with the District regarding both the application of the restoration of the 200 jobs and the Administrative Law Judge's decision. TALB advocacy during layoff hearings resulted in several saved jobs and changes in seniority dates, due to District errors in applying the Education Code. In addition, follow-up on individual situations has resulted in restoration of additional jobs. It is likely that more jobs will be restored at the conclusion of the displacement process. TALB is also continuing to hold small group informational meetings to assist members who received a layoff notice. TALB has posted all information concerning the layoffs at www.talb.org, including the Administrative Law Judge's decision and requested data from the district concerning restoration of jobs. TALB members still laid off are encouraged to remain TALB members (at a reduced dues rate) so we can provide legal representation concerning job restoration, if needed; and so you can maintain any CTA sponsored insurance.

DISPLACEMENTS: Approximately 120 TALB bargaining unit members were displaced this summer. The displacements were almost evenly split between secondary and elementary. At this writing there are approximately 19 TALB bargaining unit members who have not yet been placed.

FEDERAL JOBS FUND: The federal jobs fund has been signed into law. Passage was largely due to tens of thousands of union members who called, emailed, and wrote letters to their lawmakers. NEA, CTA, and TALB worked very hard to pass this legislation. Special thanks to the many TALB members who responded to our requests to write, call, and email, in support of this money to keep our schools afloat and save jobs.

At this writing we do not yet know what the impact of this one-time funding will be for Long Beach. There are a number of requirements the State must meet before local school districts are able to access the funds. It is impossible to predict at this time when the LBUSD might get this funding, as it is partially dependent on the State enacting a budget or other legislative action to authorize the spending. The Governor has 30 days to submit an application for the funds. It will not be a surprise if the funding is tangled up in the messy politics of the unresolved state budget.

Once it is all worked out California should receive about \$1.2 billion dollars to save jobs. The state will need to select one of two funding formulas, either by ADA or by Title 1 allocation. Local school districts will then be able to make decisions regarding the funds. The law calls for the funds to be used to rehire teachers who have been laid off and/or prospectively prevent layoffs for the following year. *For more information, please go to www.talb.org to read an NEA "FAQ" on the Jobs Fund.*

STATE BUDGET STILL UNRESOLVED

The annual summer state budget wrangle is in full swing at the capital. Recently, Democrats in the Assembly and Senate have announced a joint "Jobs Budget" proposal (Of note: TALB has sent letters with hundreds of signatures to Assembly members Furutani and Lowenthal, and Senator Lowenthal, and personally met with Senator Lowenthal, advocating protection of school funds.) This proposal would save local schools from many of the highlights proposed by the governor. Here are a few highlights:

- ✓ Instead of another cut to school funds, as proposed by the Governor in January, local districts would get the same amount as last year (a 0% COLA instead of a -.39% COLA).
- ✓ Averts an additional proposed 3.85% permanent cut.
- ✓ Restores \$300 million for Class Size Reduction (the Governor proposed a funding reduction of \$550 million).

If a version close to this "Jobs Budget" proposal can be worked out, along with the Jobs Fund, it will help to slow the downward spiral of program cuts in many districts. Thanks to all of you who have signed petitions to your local state Senator or Assemblyperson asking them to stop the cuts to education.

(OVER)

RACE TO THE TOP

At this writing, we do not know if Long Beach will be participating in the Race to the Top grant. The District has applied, but the “winners” have not been selected. The program and TALB’s concerns were well-documented in prior editions of the UPDATE. Many TALB members emailed their concerns to the School Board.

School Board member **David Barton** played an instrumental role in convincing the rest of the Board to slow the process down to allow for more public input and review. After two delays, the School Board voted 4 – 1 in favor of proceeding with the Race to the Top application. Board members **McGinnis, Meyer, Williams, and Stanton** supported proceeding with the grant. Board member **Barton** voted against proceeding with the grant, stating his concerns that the grant called for merit pay and evaluations based on test scores.

If the District is awarded a grant to participate in Race to the Top we will then find out what the impact is on our classrooms and working conditions. One value in the delayed vote was that it led to much more School Board discussion on the grant; during that discussion the Superintendent asserted that the contractually negotiated evaluation language would not require change. He also said that there would not be merit pay based on test scores. Instead, schools that “performed” well would be entitled to additional resources (he used copy machines, as an example).

If LBUSD does get the grant, we will keep you informed on any resulting issues that develop.

TALB SITE ASSOCIATION REPS MEET IN AUGUST TALB VOLUNTEERS PREPARE FOR CHALLENGES AHEAD

The TALB Board of Directors met for two consecutive days in early August to plan and prepare for the coming year. TALB Association Representatives from each school site will meet all day on Saturday, August 28, to begin the process of organizing for the coming school year. Here is a summary of a few of the notable organizing challenges we will face this year.

- ❖ **BUDGET/LAYOFFS/BARGAINING:** The budget situation is not getting better and the district faces severe budget challenges for the coming year. Unfortunately, this likely means the threat of additional layoffs in spring will persist. Negotiations will be challenging with the District likely to again make proposals to reduce salary and/or benefits, and raise class sizes.
- ❖ **RACE TO THE TOP:** This is unknown territory. Assurances from the Superintendent that we won’t need to change the way we do things helps. We trust his assurances are well intended, but we will need to verify them based on what actually occurs if we get the grant money.
- ❖ **NOVEMBER ELECTIONS:** The election for Governor, State Superintendent of Schools, Senate, and Proposition 24 are all vital for education. School funding, pensions, and privatization of public resources are all at stake. In September, Association Reps will be working with their staff to see where you stand on these important races and recruit volunteers. If you want to volunteer to help with the effort email Chris Callopy at ccallopy@talb.org.

Our success in confronting these challenges will largely depend upon the solidarity and volunteer efforts of TALB members. United we will continue to fight for improved teaching conditions and the interests of our students. If you have been active in our recent struggles we continue to appreciate your support. If you have not, we invite you to join the fight to protect our jobs, our pensions, our contract, and our students.

6th ANNUAL TALB FAMILY PICNIC

Mark your calendar! Saturday, October 9, from 10am - 2pm is the TALB FAMILY PICNIC. All TALB members, retirees, and families are invited. A special invitation goes out to our colleagues who have not yet been recalled from layoff. This year, teachers from LBCC, CSULB, UTLA and Inglewood will also be joining us in a day of fun, food, and solidarity.

There is no cost. We will BBQ hot dogs. We will have pony rides. We will have a clown, face painting, games, and music. RSVP to Vonnie Marino by Friday October 1st by calling 562-426-6433 or email vmarino@talb.org.

**IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
GO TO WWW.TALB.ORG OR CALL 562-426-6433**