

MDEA Bargaining Update

10/28/13

* District Cancels Session*

As you are aware, MDEA was scheduled to bargain with the Board's representatives today, Monday October 28, 2013. Following last Wednesday's Board meeting, we received a request that our Monday session be cancelled, since the Board had extended no further authority to their Team to bargain; however, the story doesn't stop there.

The backdrop occurred at last Wednesday's Board meeting during which several of our members spoke passionately about how the substandard compensation they receive is affecting their ability to take care of their families.

MDEA had a large blue banner made with white letters spelling out "NOW IS THE TIME" which teachers raised each time one of your colleagues spoke.

Following our members' comments, to which Board members and the Superintendent listened intently, Board President Cheryl Hansen announced that they were convening a second closed session of the Board to further discuss negotiations.

On Thursday last week, we were informed that the Board has convened a Special Board Meeting on November 4th to further review their financials, and that they are prepared to "...take bold steps in crafting a new offer to meet both parties respective needs."

We responded that, while we are still interested in talking with them, we are unwilling to participate in any additional stalling tactics on their part, given our experience in the spring. As a result, we submitted our Impasse Proposal via e-mail today.

We have an additional bargaining session scheduled for November 5, 2013, the day after the Special Board Meeting. If we find that the Board's representatives have no further authority to bargain at this session, we will submit our Impasse proposal to PERB and request that the state appoint a mediator to assist the parties in reaching a successor contract Agreement. Should the District continue to negotiate in good faith, we will continue with face-to-face negotiations.

Please stay tuned for additional information, and **remember to wear your blue shirts on November 5th.**