



UTLA Is FIGHTING FOR THE SCHOOLS LA STUDENTS DESERVE

Issue 6, August 23, 2017

Your UTLA Bargaining Team worked throughout the summer, bargaining for a new contract and working with community coalition partners to identify issues important to parents and students in the neighborhoods where we work. Our proposals were determined by member input in the spring of 2017. The bargaining platform was approved by the Board of Directors and the House of Representatives.

Our bargaining demands encompass the following four overriding objectives:

Support our students—*Safe, high-quality public schools are a right for all.*

- Reduce class sizes at all grade levels.
- Hire more special education teachers and specialists to ensure that students with special needs get the attention and support they deserve.
- Recruit more bilingual educators, invest in dual language programs, and ensure student access to ethnic studies, visual & performing arts, and career & technical education.
- Hire more nurses, counselors, social workers, and teacher librarians.
- Reduce the number of standardized tests used in the classroom and let teachers decide what works best for their students.

Empower our communities—*Public schools are the anchors of the community.*

- Build Community Schools to expand parent engagement, broaden the curriculum, and increase social services at our highest-needs schools.
- Increase parent and educator decision making by giving local school leadership councils control over how funds are used at schools.
- Require charter schools authorized by the district to prove equal access, transparency, and due process rights for all parents and students.
- Increase administrator accountability for school safety and discipline, and invest in positive behavior support through restorative justice.
- Use the district's leverage and demands on civic leaders to make improvements in affordable housing, access to green space, immigrant rights, and other community issues.

Defend the teaching profession—*Educators are everyday heroes; we must protect against attacks.*

- Attract and retain high-quality educators through competitive salaries and quality healthcare.
- Invest in the adult education and early education teachers who serve our communities by giving them the same job protections and working conditions that other teachers receive.
- Ensure that substitute teachers have healthy working conditions and are treated as essential contributors to the success of our students.

Fund the future—*Invest in our students and our schools.*

- Fund LA schools at \$20,000 per pupil by the year 2020 = 20 by 20.
- California ranks 46th in education funding yet is the richest state in the nation.
- In the 6th largest economy in the world, and in the 2nd largest district in the country, the money is here for the schools our students deserve.

Bargaining sessions are scheduled for Friday, September 15, Tuesday, September 26, and Friday, October 6.

UTLA SEPTEMBER ACTION CALENDAR

Our campaign for the Schools LA Students Deserve includes bargaining, building up our strength in every chapter and preparing for escalating actions that include parent, student and community participation. From chapter chair trainings to school site actions to legislative advocacy, join in the campaign for the Schools LA Students Deserve, with the following key dates and actions:

- **August 28:** Rally against AB 1217 (a billionaire-backed charter school that undermines our existing STEM schools) at Bernstein HS
- **Now through September 27:** Parent leafleting action around our contract demands
- **September 6:** Coalition launch of the Schools LA Students Deserve contract campaign at Trinity ES
- **September 14:** Chapter Chair and chapter leader training on informal conferences with principals and school related issues
- **September 15:** Deadline to join Contract Action Team
- **September 15 & 26:** Contract bargaining with LAUSD
- **September 26:** Big Red Tuesday action in support of bargaining
- **October 12:** Contract bargaining with LAUSD

Breaking News

At the August 22 School Board meeting, School Board president Ref Rodriguez arbitrarily removed the labor partners section of the meeting. The evidence suggests that after the 174% raise which turned the board member position into a full-time job, the next step is to increase access for billionaires while cutting access to those in the classroom. We should expect more transparency and access to the board, not less.

This move is indicative of the increasingly hostile environment in which we negotiate a new contract, where the voices of the women and men who work directly with students are not welcome.

