

## April 14, 2010 Bargaining Update to MTA Members – District Declares Impasse!

Today your MTA Bargaining Team offered the district a counter-proposal of 6 furlough days with contingency language, increased class size, and some changes to contract language. The District countered with a proposal that they stated they knew would not be acceptable to MTA members, and then asked us to join them in a joint declaration of impasse. We respectfully declined to go to impasse as it is our intent to continue to negotiate for a tentative agreement. The district chooses to not negotiate, which will result in lost jobs and/or programs. We believe our offer saves jobs and programs. When we left Ad Hoc (the joint budget committee) in February, the district stated they were committed to finding the remaining \$1.8M deficit, according to our recent Joint Communication. **The district had over \$1M that was projected to be spent on Deferred Maintenance in 2010/11 and 2011/12. That money was sweepable into the general budget. Our district swept the money, but continues to allocate it for Deferred Maintenance rather than use it to save jobs and programs. Other districts around us have swept their Deferred Maintenance funds to save jobs and programs. Our district refuses to do so.** We were told in Ad Hoc that Dr. Scheer had “drawn the line in the sand” when it came to deferred maintenance. In addition, MTA Ad Hoc members know that there are other adjustments to the budget that can be made to save jobs and programs.

We were disappointed that the district did not put our students, staff, and community first when it alleged it couldn’t find \$1.8M to save jobs and programs. According to the MVUSD website, the district is focused on maintaining employment of a quality staff and maintaining quality educational programs. Yet the district is indicating a willingness to lay off 178 teachers, put teachers through great personal hardship, and incur further costs to the district in legal fees and substitute costs in order to reserve over \$1M in their budget for deferred maintenance. Therefore, we invoked Article 6.0.1 of our contract to go back to the Ad Hoc Committee. We pointed out that at our last negotiations meeting, one of the district team members suggested this same solution. However, our district refused to honor our contract.

**The Bargaining Team suggests that the School Board and the District spend money now to save jobs and programs. The taxpayer expects the money to be spent on educating our children!**

**The district is holding a Budget Presentation at Vista Murrieta High School on April 19 @ 6:30pm. Please attend and ask your questions. More info to follow.**