



Dr. Dhyan Lal
Superintendent

LYNWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

11321 Bullis Road * Lynwood, CA 90262 * (310) 886-1600

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UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH LYNWOOD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

RELEASE DATE: June 25, 2009
CONTACT: Jose Urias, 310-886-1600

This afternoon, on June 25, 2009, the Lynwood Teachers Association (“LTA”) issued a press release that contained erroneous and misleading information regarding today’s Lynwood Unified School District’s bargaining session with LTA. The District asserts that such misinformation undermines the negotiations process and distracts and delays the parties from reaching an agreement. This will provide an accurate update on today’s negotiations.

Question: Did the District meet and negotiate in good faith with LTA in the morning on June 25, 2009?

Answer: Yes. The District’s bargaining team (which does not include members of the Board of Education) met with LTA at approximately 10:00 a.m. and discussed the issue of the 4 by 2 block schedule (the “4x2”). LTA did not have a proposal ready for the District at that time. After a caucus, LTA drafted its 4x2 proposal and presented it to the District before taking a lunch break at approximately 12:30 p.m. The District analyzed LTA’s 4x2 proposal during a working lunch, and worked on a counterproposal.

Between 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., the District spent time to analyze the cost-savings and feasibility of reducing or eliminating the second round of teacher layoffs in exchange for a voluntary pay decrease from LTA. The District wanted to make sure that the District had accurate and complete information to present to LTA in response

The District was ready to meet with LTA during the remainder of the afternoon and evening, but the union’s bargaining chairperson announced that the LTA bargaining team could not stay any longer. After LTA walked out of negotiations, the misleading press release was issued by the LTA bargaining team. The District has asked LTA to continue negotiations at 10:00 a.m., and LTA has agreed to meet at that time.

Question: Did the District refuse to present LTA with “REAL” budget numbers?

Answer: No. The District never refused to present “REAL” budget numbers to LTA. In fact, the District is ready to discuss the budget numbers, which LTA received on June 23, 2009. At that time, LTA leaders had several opportunities to publicly question the District’s fiscal numbers at a hearing on the 2009-10 budget. LTA chose not to question any of the budget allocations or otherwise challenge the District’s budget projections.

Considering the seriousness of the District’s fiscal crisis, and LTA’s prior allegations regarding the District’s budgeting process, the District’s bargaining team felt that it was important to work through critical fiscal issues so that the District and LTA would not have to come back again during the 2009-10 school year to seek further concessions from the teaching staff. With LTA’s unilateral adjournment of the bargaining session, the District could not present its proposal on the compensation/layoff issue.

The District hopes that LTA returns to the bargaining table with a more cooperative and reasonable approach.

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