

## *Protecting The Promise Of Education*

### *President's Update*

Posted by [Sweetwater Education Association](#) on November 29, 2010 • [MOU](#) • [Full article](#)

*November 19, 2010, the Friday before Thanksgiving break, Representatives from SEA and the District met to discuss the 2011-12 school calendar. The District proposed a calendar that includes four furlough days in June 2012 and a return to work date of July 20, 2011, the same day that the District proposes that students return to school. The District freely admitted that their calendar proposal was also a wage proposal - a wage reduction proposal. The District had no business opening the wage article.*



*We have a Memorandum of Understanding that expires at the end of the 2012-13 school year that has increased our class caps and staffing ratio. Our contribution to deal with the economy has already been made. Unfortunately, the District does not respond well to logical arguments. I will be asking the SEA Rep Council to consider "job actions" to support our calendar team.*

*Contractually, we are to begin calendar discussions for an upcoming school year prior to December 1. The past practice has been that the District presents its calendar proposal to SEA, our calendar team then presents the District's proposal to our Rep Council at a regularly scheduled meeting, and our Reps seek input from our membership at school sites and report back to our calendar team at the following meeting of the Rep Council. Discussions with the District then continue.*

*Our current contract with the District expires on June 30, 2011. We are required to present our initial bargaining proposal to the District prior to May 1, and we will. This step of negotiation procedures is called "sunshining." Before we sunshine our proposal, we are obligated to survey our membership to seek input on our initial proposal. We will also host open hearings so that members may discuss issues with our bargaining team and the SEA Board of Directors. Bargaining will not begin until after we sunshine our proposal. The District attempted to sunshine its bargaining proposal at the November 15, school board meeting. That meeting did not end and is to be continued on November 29. The District will sunshine its initial proposal then.*

*So what is the District trying to do? In our last round of negotiations, it was no secret that the District attempted to implement School Services recommended strategy of getting to the table and declaring Impasse as soon as possible to be in position to impose a last best and final offer. I have no doubt that the district plans on using the same strategy again. The District will once again turn on its propaganda machine. Don't buy their garbage.*

*Do you remember the pink slip debacle of 2010 and the propaganda that the District issued? I have a list of temporary teachers currently employed by the District dated October 18, 2010. Let's call it "Exhibit A." There are 59 teachers listed on Exhibit A. A prior list had numbers in the sixties; however, some have been issued probationary contracts. (More should be issued.) Exhibit A lists twelve English teachers who have been hired for this school year.*

*On June 8, 2010, I sent the following message to the School Board:*

*Dear Members of the School Board,*

**Last week, I requested that you review the draft master schedules that were posted at school sites on June 1. After reviewing the master schedules, and we do not have all of them, we have found that there are 74 sections of English that are listed without teachers assigned to teach those classes. There are four English teachers that have not had their layoff notices rescinded. Not only will the District need to rescind these notices, the District will need to hire more English teachers. I believe that the District has intentionally misled the School Board. Nevertheless, the School Board is ultimately responsible for the operation of the District.**

**Once again, please review the master schedules that were posted on June 1.**

**Other than the need for rescinding the notices for the four English teachers, more should be rescinded according to our analysis of the master schedules. I will send you further communiqués on this matter.**

**Thank you,**

**Alex Anguiano**

*SEA was correct. It was not necessary to issue the pink slips. With the exception of Pearl Quinones, the District was successful at misleading the School Board. My point is that the District has a history of misleading the School Board, and will try to mislead the public and our membership as we enter into calendar discussions and later into full contract negotiations. Once again, don't buy their garbage.*

*Please attend the calendar meetings that your site reps will be hosting and look for further communiqués from SEA.*

**Alex Anguiano  
SEA President | November 29, 2010**