



JUST THE FACTS...



The VTA/CTA/NEA 08-09 Bargaining Update
Issue #8
May 19, 2009

Members of the District Bargaining Team: Burton Crinklaw, John Niederkorn,
Randy Henry, Tom Davis, Kari Fisher-Gibson.

Members of the VTA Bargaining Team: Tim Yearnshaw, Gary Masterson,
Joanne Baker, Kent Puddy.

The District and Association discussed a variety of items. The VTA Bargaining Team asked about how the District was staffing for K-3 and 9th Grade Class Size Reduction. The indicated that it was the administrative recommendation at this time to have K-3 class sizes range from 20-24 students depending on site enrollments and 9th grade Math and English classes to be 25 students. They also indicated that these could change depending upon the District's financial status.

The VTA Bargaining Team asked about the status of Federal Bailout monies. The District said that it had yet to receive any money but were expecting to receive one half of the Title 1 money allocation (about \$322,000) in May. There was also SELPA money (about \$1,100,000) and Federal Stabilization money (\$3,265,000) that was potentially available for VUSD. They stated that the status of these monies could change with the outcome of the special election and the governor's budget revise.

The District stated that the potential existed for another \$3,000,000 in additional District cuts if the election failed and State budget situation continued to decline.

No proposals by either the District or Association have been signed as Tentative Agreements for the contract at this time.

The VTA Bargaining Team presented the following proposals to the District as part of the VTA package to settle the 2008-09 contract:

In a prior bargaining session, the District proposed language changes to articles concerning Elementary and Secondary preparation time.

The response by the VTA Bargaining Team: *The Association wishes to maintain current contract language concerning articles 4.1.4 through 4.1.5.3.*

The following was presented by the VTA Bargaining Team as an amended component to the VTA package:

4.1.6 Adjunct duties

4.1.6.1 Last sentence

~~Using the above criteria, administration may count an assignment as more than one (1) adjunct duty.~~

4.1.6.2 The schedule of adjunct duties shall be publicized in a timely manner. Except for Back-to-School and Open House, teachers shall not be required to participate in more than ~~three (3)~~ **one (1) adjunct duty duties** beyond the duty day. **An adjunct duty shall not exceed three (3) hours.**

4.1.6.4 ~~Service as a~~ **Elected** representatives to VTA Rep Council or **Executive Board shall not be assigned an adjunct duty.**

Concerning Elementary Preparation Release Teachers:

Prior District proposal:

9.4 Elementary Preparation Release Teachers

- 9.4.1 Class sizes for elementary preparation release teachers including, but limited to, physical education, general music, instrumental musical, choral music and computer lab specialists shall not exceed forty-five (45) students.
- 9.4.2 Elementary preparation release teachers shall be assigned up to twenty-nine (29) sections per week.
- 9.4.3 Sections shall consist of fifty (50) minute blocks for forty-five (45) minute preps or be arranged such that elementary preparation teachers have time between classes in which to use facilities and prepare materials and/or equipment for varying grade levels.

VTA package proposal

9.5 Elementary Preparation Release Teachers

9.5.1 Elementary preparation release teachers are defined as physical education, general music, instrumental musical, choral music and computer lab specialists providing preparation time for regular classroom elementary teachers.

9.5.2 Elementary preparation release teachers shall be assigned up to twenty-nine (29) sections per week.

9.5.2.1 A section is a single K-6 class. The number of students per section shall not exceed the number of students registered in the class for which they are providing preparation time.

9.5.2.2 If a member is required to travel to different sites in a day, the member shall have their number of sections per week reduced by one (1) section for each additional site to which the member travels.

9.5.2.2.1 Every effort shall be made to limit the number of unit members required to travel to other sites within a year.

9.5.2.2.2 *If itinerant unit members must travel between sites, members at the affected site shall be asked to volunteer. If there are no volunteers, the least senior member shall be selected to travel.*

9.5.2.2.3 *Members shall be reimbursed at the IRS rate for their mileage to travel to each additional site within a day.*

9.5.3 *Sections shall consist of fifty (50) minute blocks for forty-five (45) minute preps. They shall be arranged so that elementary preparation teachers have time between classes.*

Prior District proposal:

4.1.6 Elementary Preparation Release Teachers: Each elementary preparation release teacher not assigned to a middle or high school shall have ninety (90) minutes per week of preparation time during the student day.

VTA package proposal

4.1.5.6 *Elementary Preparation Release Teachers shall be provided three (3) forty-five (45) minute preparation periods per week during the student day.*

(more)

Discussion took place concerning the following article proposed by VTA during a prior session:

Class Size

9.4.1 Every effort will be made by site administration to equalize the number of special education/needs students placed in similar general education classes at the elementary level.

9.4.2 Every effort will be made by site administration to include special education/needs students in non-combination classes.

9.4.3 Every effort will be made by site administration to equalize the number of special education/needs students placed in similar general education sections at the secondary level.

After the discussion, the District indicated it was willing to draft a communiqué and share it with VTA about this item. It will then be presented to Principals and they in turn will work with members in an attempt to balance the work load of the members concerning this matter.

After a District caucus, the District presented the following:

The District proposes the following as a package proposal for conclusion of the 2008-09 and 2009-2010 contract negotiations:

- Accepts VTA proposal of zero percent (0%) increase to all salary schedule including all components of Schedule K for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 contract years.
- A two (2) day reduced work calendar for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. These days shall be taken from within the current four (4) teacher workdays. Maintain 184 day contracted annual salary on a 182 day work calendar or a similar two (2) day reduction for unit members on different work calendars. A mandatory deduction of two (2) days per diem of a unit member's salary will be made over the course of

the member's pay cycle to the District for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 contract years. The deduction will appear on the pay warrant under voluntary deductions and identified as a donation.

- Counter offer to VTA's retiree benefits proposal. Retirees (those who retire in 2009-2010 or 2010-2011) who have served not less than twenty-four (24) years in the District shall be eligible for the District, for a period of eight (8) years, to contribute fifty percent (50%) of their monthly premium for a subscriber only medical plan. Retirees (those who retire in 2009-2010 or 2010-2011) who have served not less than thirty (30) years in the District shall be eligible for the District, for a period of nine (9) years, to contribute fifty percent (50%) of their monthly premium for a subscriber only medical plan.
- Tentative agreements on the following:
 - Reassignment of Itinerant Unit Members
 - Part Time Employment
 - Elementary Preparation Release Teachers Prep Periods
 - Article 9.5: Elementary Preparation Release Teachers
- Withdrawal of all other outstanding District and VTA proposals.

No date for the next bargaining session was set.