

**President's Report to Rep Council**  
**August 21, 2006**

**Update on District situation:**

- Although we were told last week that all teacher vacancies had been filled and that there would be a credentialed teacher in every classroom, it turns out the OUSD is having an on-the-spot Job Fair this afternoon. Meanwhile, we have been receiving many calls, emails and visits at OEA about problems with placements, transfers, leaves of absence, ECE placements, teachers not receiving their paychecks on time, etc. In short, the state of the District is not good. If this is the latest indication of their Expect Success! Reorganization of the district, we need to take seriously the suggestion of member Jack Gerson that we not Expect Success, we Create Success; Kids and Classrooms First, Retain Experienced Teachers, Reduce Class Size, Provide Adequate Resources. We are sure to have our work cut out for us as the school year opens, and *we want to emphasize the importance of getting information to OEA as soon as it's available*. Trish will talk more about this in her report.
- So what is happening in the District? Randolph Ward has gone to San Diego, replaced as Interim Superintendent by Kimberly Statham, formerly Chief Academic Officer. We certainly hope our relations are better with her than with her predecessor, although we're concerned that she's yet another graduate of the Broad Foundation training and many of the Broad graduates installed by Randy Ward remain in the district.
- Several meetings have been held about Expect Success!, the District's program for reorganizing the Central Office, and this is something we need to analyze and discuss more fully in the coming months.
- The second hearing about the sale of OUSD property was held last week at the School Board, and a third will be held September 6<sup>th</sup>. We need to mobilize as many members as possible to attend that meeting. Because of the presence and pressure of members of OEA and the community, the original plans for the sale have already been revised. Please see the purple section of your Rep packet for more information

on what's been taking place over the summer around this issue and around the issue of local control. OEA is a founding member of the Ad Hoc Committee to Restore Local Control/Governance, and if you're interested, a meeting of the committee is being held this evening at 6pm in Hunter Hall.

- There has been continuous discussion about many of these issues on the Oakland Teachers listserve, so if you're interested in joining that, see Jack Gerson.

### **Executive Board Retreat**

- The Executive Board met last Friday and Saturday for our annual retreat, and began to plan goals and actions for this coming school year. We had discussion around a number of topics, from the state of the district to agreeing to defend school integration plans and support a March on Washington to save Brown v. Board of Education. We'll have a more complete report available at next Rep Council, but I want to highlight several areas of focus we talked about for the year:
  1. ***Strengthening contract enforcement:*** to begin with, we need to gather information from day one of conditions in the schools, and counter what's sure to be the District's claim that everything is rosy with our own picture of the realities. We need you to call us immediately about any violations of the contract; Trish will address this more fully in her report. We also anticipate that elementary prep (AKA EEIP) will be an issue; this needs to be reported to OEA immediately.
  2. ***Improving our Internal Structure:*** We had a lengthy discussion about what works and doesn't work with Rep Council, and want to see this as one of our focal points for this year. You will have noticed that we put tables outside the meeting area this time in an effort to cut down talking during the meeting. We'll be asking you for your ideas and input when we break into clusters. We plan to strengthen our committee system, and Rosenda will talk about that in more detail. We also want to make sure there's a Rep in every site, work on electing FC's and SSC's in every site, and strengthen our communication with an improved website.

3. ***Educate our Members:*** Our initial focus will be on Knowing your Contract. Final copies of the new contract should be available at the 9/11 Rep Council; in the meantime, Trish will talk more about the key sections all members need to know. We also talked about taking advantage of more trainings and conferences, and beginning to educate our membership about issues that affect us in the classroom because of NCLB, RBB, Expect Success, etc.
  
4. ***Community Alliances:*** As I mentioned, we've begun working with a number of groups and individuals on the Ad Hoc Committee to oppose the sale of the property and demand a return to local control.

### **Vacancies**

- Treasurer, 3 Executive Board seats (one for Counselors, Speech Pathologists, Nurses; the other two will be “at large”; those with highest vote count will be elected). Letters of Intent will go out shortly, and elections will be held at October Rep Council. All seats will be through June 30, 2007.

### **Announcements**

- September 4<sup>th</sup> Labor Day Picnic – Central Labor Council
- Reminder: September 6<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting re: sale of property
- We need an Elections Chair – contact OEA if interested.