

Members' Feedback on Calendar Proposal Needed

The next OEA Representative Assembly is March 1. Prior to that time, the OEA Bargaining Team needs your input on a change in the standard school student and work-year calendar. OUSD is proposing that Thanksgiving vacation be a full week, that the Winter break be the traditional two weeks and that there be one voluntary professional development day on Friday, November 12. This would extend the calendar an additional three days in June. OUSD's rationale is that there is a great drop off in ADA on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving. Let your Building Representative know your feelings regarding this proposal.

Meet the 2004 Bargaining Team

Your 2004 OEA Bargaining Team has been selected. OEA President Sheila Quintana, who will be spokesperson, heads the OEA Bargaining Team. The other members of the Team are Stella Collins, Arroyo Viejo ECE; Carl Kopman, Peralta; Jessie Muldoon, Roosevelt; Raquel Rodriguez Jones, International Community School; and Bonnita Solberg, Neighborhood Centers Adult Education. In addition, OEA/CTA Executive Directors Ara Prigian and Bruce Colwell, as well as CTA Negotiations Specialist Marty Kahn and retired CTA Financial Specialist Cloyd Masengill will assist the Team.

Ward Comes to the Table

There was been a second meeting of the OEA and OUSD Bargaining Teams on Wednesday, February 18. The initial meeting was held on January 14. The topic of both meetings was to establish the 2004-05 calendar. State Administrator Randy Ward was at the February 18 meeting.

OUSD's interest is to have a single calendar, rather than a variety of options. OEA's Bargaining Team expressed an interest in discussing calendar options, but only in the context of restoring the salary schedule to its 2002-03 level, which means a 4% increase. Since such an increase would probably result in returning to a 186-day calendar, it was decided that the calendar discussion would have to wait until both sides sunshined all of their proposals and until OEA could seek feedback from its members.

Contract Convention

A date for the contract convention will be set for March or early April. Watch for the date and plan on attending. Each member is encouraged to attend. Prior to attending, it is suggested that Building Representatives hold mini-conventions at their sites and collect and collate information in writing for the Bargaining Team. Oral testimony to the Bargaining Team can then reinforce what has previously been discussed at sites. Watch for the date of the convention.

Bargaining Team Training

Training for the Bargaining Team will be held after school on March 2. The training will cover many elements of the bargaining process, team building, setting priorities, team roles, communication skills and strategy. In addition, the Team will begin constructing a bargaining survey that will be distributed to all OEA Bargaining Unit members this spring.

Next Bargaining Session

The OEA and OUSD Teams will reconvene on March 11 to have further discussions regarding the calendar.

Bilingual Stipends and Professional Development Pay

At the last negotiations session OUSD made a commitment to give a definite date for payment of the first semester bilingual stipend and the pay for those who participated in the voluntary professional development days. OUSD offered the explanation that the bilingual stipend had not been paid, because of the change over to the BiTech computer system and the professional development payments had not been made, because the agendas for the training for some of the buildings had not been approved.