



A Report from the Long Beach Unified School District Negotiating Team ■ June 12, 2006

Tentative Agreement Reached on New Contract, 10 Percent Raise

Representatives of the Long Beach Unified School District and the Teachers Association of Long Beach reached tentative agreements for both the K-12 and Child Development Center/Head Start units Friday evening, June 9. TALB accepted the district's economic proposal from May 30. Highlights of the agreement follow.

Salaries

2005-06, Effective July 1, 2005

- 4 percent applied to salary schedules*
- Longevity stipends increased to: **
 - \$2,500 in the 20th year
 - \$2,000 in the 25th year
 - \$2,500 in the 30th year (new)
- Doctoral stipend increased to \$2,000.

2006-07, Effective July 1, 2006

- 6 percent increase on all schedules – same exceptions as above.
- Requirement for moving to last and highest paying column reduced to BA+75+MA or MA+45 units.
- Article XII– Bilingual stipends deleted.
- Pay and placement incentives provided for designated instructional services speech pathologist specialists.

The combined effect of the 4 percent raise for this year and the 6 percent raise next year is at least a 10 percent salary increase effective July 1, 2006.

The school district's latest offer was made possible by a combination of factors: savings from health insurance due to increased efficiency through 2005-06, continued savings due to recent budget cuts, transfers of funds, and an optimistic state budget for 2006-07 as reflected in the Governor's May Revise.

Health & Welfare Benefits

The school district will pay premium increases through 2007-08 subject to contract language.

Effective January 1, 2007, CCN will be eliminated; enrollment caps on Blue Shield HMO and PacificCare HMO are lifted; chiropractic benefits will be added to Kaiser, PacificCare and Blue Shield HMOs. The Health Benefits Committee and district will continue to explore overall plan and carrier adjustments.

Language

For K-12, the negotiating teams agreed on language confirming pay for Individualized Education Plans, procedures affecting kindergarten hours and library media teachers, and providing TALB with safety reports. The balance of TALB's 244 proposals was withdrawn along with other district language proposals. For CDC/Head Start the parties agreed to review technology, parking and lounge space, to develop an evaluation instrument for CDC/Head Start and to amend transfer language exempting assignments between school years.

Term of Agreement

The contract extends through June 30, 2008, with re-openers for salaries and three articles apiece in 2007-08; no re-openers for 2006-07.

Ratification

The agreement will be submitted to TALB membership via mail ballot for ratification. It will be submitted to the Board of Education for ratification in late June. The target month for issuing 4 percent retroactive checks is August.

* For bargaining unit members, additional hourly compensation tied to the "sub" rate, or Schedule N, are increased 10 percent effective July 1, 2006. Increases do not apply to BTSAs, PARs, Deans and High School Small Learning Community.

** CDC/Head Start Longevity increased to \$1,500 in the 15th year, \$1,500 in the 25th year and \$1,500 in the 30th year (new).