

Council Voices Concerns Regarding School Bond at this Time

Following a lengthy discussion at Council Tuesday, February 23, the Council voted to withhold endorsement of the Board of Education proposed facilities bond. While it was noted that the District is in need of funds to maintain and improve buildings, the Council delineated concerns over the Board of Education's management of funds. Several issues emerged during the discussion.

- The District has received more money from the State than any year prior, and has reported there is no money available for vital classroom initiatives.
- The BOE awarded ample ongoing raises to the two highest paid employees: Contreras Smith and Pell.
- The Association is reviewing the greatly increased payment to Legal Council especially in the area of "expenses" for Kenney and Kropff. President Lorraine Richards is heading the investigation.
- The Chief Business Officer has said the two priorities of the District should be controlling the costs of special education and building reserves.
- And, reserves are needed to get the best possible bond rating.

The BOE had a special meeting to review placing a bond on the June ballot Thursday, February 25 and is expected take the final vote at the regular meeting March 3.



Organizing Chairperson Margie Granado (BAE) and Bargaining Chairperson David Navar (WGE) address Council.

Retirement Benefits Workshop March 8

The MTA Trust Fund and all retiree health benefits will be explained at the Retirement Benefits Workshop **Tuesday, March 8, 3:30 p.m.**

MTA Conference Center: 920 W. Whittier Blvd. No reservation is necessary.

Retirement Dinner Is May 20 at the Reef

The Association will honor retirees at a dinner in Long Beach **Friday, May 20.**

Applications for MOU Are Due April 22!

The District and the Association have developed a joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) form for banking minutes.

There is one form for both the Faculty Club Chairperson and the site Principal to complete and return to District office. **The form will then be forwarded to the MTA office.**

MOU requests are due Friday, April 22. Forms and additional support materials are available at montebelloteachers.org. The Instructional Division at District Office is also available to answer questions.

If your site is considering applying for a waiver and will not have completed the process by April 25, please contact the MTA for information on how to proceed. Late applications may be accepted.

MTA Grievance Workshop Tuesday, March 15 at 5 p.m.

All are welcome to the MTA Grievance Workshop. Learn to process grievances at your school site. Past Bargaining Chairperson Gilbert Gomez (MHS) and Bargaining Chairperson David Navar (WGE) will review the grievance procedure in the contract and create simulations so Bargaining Unit members can practice skills.

The philosophy of the contract is to solve grievances at the lowest level possible. Trained grievance reps can correct misunderstandings and interpret the contract to quickly resolve grievances.

The workshop will be held at the MTA CC and offers 2 hours of District Salary Credit. Dinner will be served. To RSVP send an email to MTA@montebelloteachers.org.



Bargaining Update

Due to unforeseen circumstances, MTA cancelled negotiations on Thursday, February 25. Tentatively, bargaining is scheduled to resume March 2.

**Actual Fees and Expenses paid by MUSD to
Kenney Kropff for legal counsel**

In an on-line version of the Contract for dated February 17, 2016, a series of numbers were published that were received from the District in response to a request for records related to legal fees and expenses for Kenny & Kropff (Attorneys). A few days later, the district sent documents with corrections to those numbers. Those corrections appear below.

2013-2014 (the contract for this year stated that fees were "not to exceed" \$342,000)				
	Retainer	Fees	Expenses	Total
July 2013	2,500.00	19,183.24	35,509.56	\$ 57,192.80
August 2013	2,500.00	17,096.69	40,131.67	\$ 59,728.36
September 2013	2,500.00	16,309.61	38,986.12	\$ 57,795.73
October 2013	2,500.00	22,094.63	11,797.75	\$ 36,392.38
November 2013	2,500.00	29,038.66	5,214.95	\$ 36,753.61
December 2013	2,500.00	36,407.32	10,787.20	\$ 49,694.52
January 2014	2,500.00	37,404.35	24,832.00	\$ 64,736.35
February 2014	2,500.00	39,736.70	55,220.55	\$ 97,457.25
March 2014	2,500.00	38,672.60	24,192.55	\$ 65,365.15
April 2014	2,500.00	30,289.80	46,649.39	\$ 79,439.19
May 2014	2,500.00	30,057.99	50,129.05	\$ 82,687.04
June 2014	2,500.00	27,953.27	51,027.44	\$ 81,480.71
Total	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 344,244.86	\$ 394,478.23	\$ 768,723.09

2014-2015 (the contract for this year stated that fees were "not to exceed" \$400,000)				
	Retainer	Fees	Expenses	Total
July 2014	2,500.00	26,522.57	22,137.98	\$ 51,160.55
August 2014	2,500.00	31,724.30	10,619.50	\$ 44,843.80
September 2014	2,500.00	36,625.35	22,825.94	\$ 61,951.29
October 2014	2,500.00	37,913.46	13,663.75	\$ 54,077.21
November 2014	2,500.00	35,062.12	12,309.44	\$ 49,871.56
December 2014	2,500.00	37,176.74	10,087.78	\$ 49,764.52
January 2015	2,500.00	41,142.13	16,554.25	\$ 60,196.38
February 2015	2,500.00	17,469.55	29,206.25	\$ 49,175.80
March 2015	2,500.00	37,787.67	14,204.50	\$ 54,492.17
April 2015	2,500.00	41,892.15	3,409.14	\$ 47,801.29
May 2015	2,500.00	32,225.42	11,385.68	\$ 46,111.10
June 2015	2,500.00	24,054.95	10,491.03	\$ 37,045.98
Total	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 399,596.41	\$ 176,895.24	\$ 606,491.65

2015-2016 (through Dec 2015)				
	Retainer	Fees	Expenses	Total
July 2015	3,000.00	39,516.00	10,179.53	\$ 52,695.53
August 2015	3,000.00	45,326.00	18,408.25	\$ 66,734.25
September 2015	3,000.00	50,960.00	13,958.69	\$ 67,918.69
October 2015	3,000.00	45,333.00	10,343.50	\$ 58,676.50
November 2015	3,000.00	51,490.00	18,255.55	\$ 72,745.55
December 2015	3,000.00	48,464.00	39,613.10	\$ 91,077.10
Total	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 281,089.00	\$ 110,758.62	\$ 409,847.62