

# FROM THE TABLE

## A MBUTA NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN TO TEACHERS

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Hello and welcome to another week of 2022

There are many pressing issues in our district at this time but the most critical seems to be the efficiency and reliability of the district Covid testing program.

Most of us have now experienced the many frustrations of testing with Malibu Medical Group. We are mainly concerned with the lack of timely results and the district stance that “no news is good news” regarding our medical information.

I have heard from many members that we are outraged that our insurance is being billed to offer services which we are, in effect, not receiving. The fact that test results are so universally unavailable also undermines confidence in the district’s covid dashboard reporting. We want to make informed decisions about our risk tolerance and cannot do so with such inaccurate numbers.

The MBUTA bargaining team sunshined our proposal on October 6th. We have met with the district several times over the past few months and safety and covid protocols have definitely been part of the ongoing conversation. An important part of the conversation involves contract language on quarantines. Unlike other local districts, our contract has a quarantine article which explicitly states that members will “suffer no loss of pay” while on quarantine.

The team worked to get that article recognized and this past Thursday, we confirmed that the article will be honored. HR will go back to October 1st and restore sick leave you may have used to cover quarantine needs —waiting for test results while out with symptoms is covered. Please stay tuned for updates on that process.

The district has also presented an unusual budget (for them). In a year when the state is flooding public education with funding, the district can no longer play their usual game of “crying poor”. The required 3 year budget shows positive ending balances for every year. This year’s ending balance will be a whopping \$5,249,281. Next year’s ending fund balance is also in the millions.

True to form the third required year of budgeting (while still in the black) is “only” \$37,000. Since the December 15th board meeting when these numbers were presented, the budget projections at the state level has only gotten rosier. With the COLA this year at 5.07% and the next two years of projections coming in at 2.48% and 3.11% it seems a shame to have to tell you that the district has come to the table with a 1.25% salary adjustment offer.

This number represents their offer for an ongoing salary adjustment. If you compare their offer to the neighboring districts, you will see that there is nothing offered (although you can be sure we have asked for it at the bargaining table) in the way of compensation for one-time payments to show their respect and appreciation to teachers for the extra work we are all doing at this time.

Please follow the we.are.mbuta Instagram account for updated and snappily-presented information on union issues.

Take care and stay well.

MBUTA Bargaining Team and Exec Board