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A PVFA NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN TO TEACHERS

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Dear PVFA Bargaining Unit Members,

Yesterday our Bargaining Team met with the District Team for a full day of negotiations. Though we are making some progress, it's not enough. Below is a summary of where we are with our open Articles:

- Article 6-Hours of Employment and Staff Development – There has been only one part currently being addressed in this article. Assessment time is needed for our Kindergarten colleagues as these assessments are one-on-one. We are working together on this.
- Article 7-Compensation and Benefits- Well...progress? ...a bit. Is it where we need to be?... not even close. We are opening our whole contract to renegotiate in the fall, so we offered to wait on some smaller items until then in our counter. Areas we will not wait for are Salary and Benefits. We are quite aware of the financial climate and do not want to hear a “doom and gloom” scenario. They have never occurred though, we are always given multi-year projections that “warn” of that. We need more on Salary and we need to see an offer on Benefits. Did you have to change your medical plan due to increased premiums? Was your January paycheck lower than your December one? If the School Board can pay our Superintendent a 6% increase in a multi-year salary package, shouldn't we get something close to that?
- Article 11-Class Size – We are looking at possibly having more equity of class sizes within our district. We have been making Kindergarten one of our priorities with class size, but all of our class sizes need to be addressed. How can a 1st grade class start the year at 28 students from their own school knowing that their numbers will increase with the influx from private school Kindergarten programs? Can an elementary site classroom of 36 5th graders be the best that PVPUSD can offer? Class Size Abrogation (the money you receive if you breach the class size max) was NOT intended to be an opportunity to keep inching up the class size numbers.
- Article 18-Retirement – We have provided a rationale numerous times and in numerous ways as to why using 2010 numbers for early retirees medical contribution from the District has to change. How does a District accept money from our CalPERS Board who approves an annual increase contribution of their minimum base rate and then lower their own District Supplemental Reimbursement??

Our next bargaining session will be on April 21st. In the meantime, we need to remember that we are an Association. We support each other, stand up for each other, and speak as a united voice. Let's let our School Board and community know how we feel about these issues. We matter-each of you matter-and the District needs to hear it!

Your Bargaining Team,
Becky Gallagher, Chair
Kely Branick
Nic Anikouchine
Ankita Oudega
Megan Ross