

# Redondo Beach Teachers Association



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Director-Elementary:  
Denine Hollow  
Director-Middle School:  
Lissa Watts  
Director-High School:  
Anita Stoddard

## Site Representatives

Adams:  
Kathleen DeMott  
Alta Vista:  
Robin Buhl  
Nichole Hazlewood  
Joyce Stout  
Emily O'Brien, Alt.

Beryl:  
Billy Barnhart  
Susan Joachim, Alt.

Birney:  
Debbie Chew  
Genie Lewis, Alt.

Jefferson:  
Jeannine Ingrassia-  
Barnes  
Mary Monahan

Lincoln:  
Armida Maldonado  
Jessica Mora  
Suzie Wolfrum, Alt.

Madison:  
Karen Aguilar  
Steve Johnson  
Denine Hollow, Alt.

Parras:  
Janet Barker  
Brent Steinman  
Diane Young

Redondo Shores:  
Lissa Watts  
Patrick Vaughan, Alt.

RUHS:  
Tim Baumgartner  
Traci Hamilton  
Marie Koorsen  
Shaun Lloyd  
Sarah Robinson

Tulita:  
Katherine Plummer  
Thembi Ramos  
Karin Sato

Washington:  
Jan Esser  
KC Long

CTA State Council Reps  
Erik Carlstone (CV)  
Jack Foreman (CV)  
Carol Mathews (MB)  
Renae Roberts (PV)



## President's Message

September 2010

### **Back to School Night- Get the Message Out!**

Representing more than 2.5 million teachers, parents, administrators, school board members, school employees and other education advocates in California, The Education Coalition has some powerful comments on the state of education in California. Log onto <http://www.protectourstudents.org/> to download "What Every Parent Needs to Know About Education Funding"- a perfect handout to have available on Back to School Night. Or if you don't want to download and have available at Back to School Night, become familiar with some of the facts and let your parents know how state education funding cuts are directly affecting you and the children in your classroom this year.

Also, let parents know that RBUSD has been allotted \$1,648,679 from the Save Our Teachers legislation that was recently passed by Congress. (And thanks to any and all who emailed or called on behalf of our fellow teachers who were laid off). The intent of the legislation is to roll back the losses of last year which for RBUSD is class size in the elementary K-3 level. While all of the probationary and permanent layoffs were rescinded before the school year began, there were also outstanding temporary teachers lost last year due to the budget cuts as well. Their loss directly impacts class size and those positions should be restored. In addition, class size numbers are up at the high school. Increases in numbers mean that fewer sections are offered. There should be restoration here too. All school districts are to use these federal funds to restore teachers to their classrooms. Using these funds to pad the reserves before bringing class size back to the 2009-2010 levels is an inappropriate use of these dollars. Again, Redondo's share of the Ed jobs pie is \$1,648,679.

### **Moving On....RBTA**

Successes last year included advocating for members who needed assistance, continuing to keep open channels of communication with administration, not taking salary cuts or freezes and ending the school year not taking any furlough days. To take NO PAY/FURLOUGH DAYS or not to take them has been a very emotional and personal concern for many members who saw their friends and colleagues lose their jobs. For others, the concern was tied to the fact that teachers have not had a pay increase for over 3 years, that we are continuing to absorb the Health and Welfare increases and that the dollars we take home today do not buy what they did 3 years ago. RBTA leadership recognizes the faith you have in us. You've trusted us to make sound decisions on your behalf and we will continue to keep our members' best interest in the forefront of what we do moving forward.

**RBTA members are invited** to any and all Representative Council Meetings. Check out [www.sbut.org](http://www.sbut.org) - RBTA tab for the meeting dates. Your voice is always welcome.



### **Welcome Back from Middle School Director Lissa Watts**

*Welcome back RBTA members! My name is Lissa Watts and I am RBTA's Middle School Director. This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year on the RBTA Executive Board and prior to this I was a site rep. for 2 years. I have been employed by RBUSD for 7 years and I am the currently the counselor for Alternative Education which includes Redondo Shores High, Redondo Beach Learning Academy and our Independent Study Program. Whether you are a veteran RBUSD teacher or new to our district, I am looking forward to working with you this school year and helping you in any way possible. I am always available if you have questions,*

concerns, or would like information. My email address is [lissaandmark@yahoo.com](mailto:lissaandmark@yahoo.com) and my cell phone number is (310) 729-5431. I look forward to hearing from you!



**Greetings Seahawks! From Anita Reviczky Stoddard, RBTA-Director, High School**

Welcome back! There is going to be a great deal going on this year and I cannot stress enough how important it will be to stay informed. To begin with, this year our entire contract is up for renegotiation. If you haven't done so already, please take the time to thank the members of the negotiating team that are on our campus. Both Donna Pattillo and Linda Dillard have given up quite a bit of their time (even during the summer) negotiating for good working conditions for all of us. They have worked very hard on your behalf and during these tough economic times, it hasn't been easy. The biggest thing that they have done for us all was standing firm regarding furlough days. For your information, all RIF'ed teachers were called back and the district is hiring more. All this was done without having to take a single furlough day. This is huge!

The second important thing happening this year will be the election of two new School Board members. Both Carl Clark and Arlene Staich will term out next year. It is very important to elect Board Members who will listen to all stakeholders. You will be called upon to volunteer some time in support of the candidates backed by RBTA. I hope that when the call goes out, you will give readily. Your participation is vital.

It will be important for us all to participate on school site committees. It is on those committees that decisions are made that will affect us all. If we don't participate, decisions will be made that may not be in our best interest.

I also put out the call for any interested parties to serve as a site rep for RBTA. We currently have 5 reps at the high school and there is room for two more. Does anyone out there hear the "calling"? Let me know if you're interested.

Finally, it is really important that I get a personal email listing for each of you for RBTA communication. This will be the method by which I will disseminate information. With so much going on, I do not want to use the district email at all. This being said, let us have a great year!



**Monica Joyce –Vice President and Bargaining Chair**

I am very proud to teach in Redondo Beach. On a daily basis, I am impressed by the dedication, generosity and talents of the members of the Redondo Beach Teachers Association. I firmly believe that we are the legacy of RBUSD. I hope that we will continue to support and to learn from one another. This is a challenging time for educators, but if we continue to stand together will accomplish great things. If you have concerns about please feel free to contact me at Tulita or by email – [rejoyces@cox.net](mailto:rejoyces@cox.net). Let's make it a great year!!



**Denine Hollow – Elementary Director**

Welcome back RBTA members! My name is Denine Hollow and I am RBTA's Elementary School Director. This is my 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the RBTA board and prior to this I was a site rep. for 2 years. I have been employed by RBUSD for 7 years and I am the currently a first grade teacher at Madison Elementary. Whether you are a veteran RBUSD teacher or new to our district, I am looking forward to working with you this school year and helping you in any way possible. I am always available if you have questions, concerns, or would like information. My email address is [daisy34@yahoo.com](mailto:daisy34@yahoo.com). I look forward to hearing from you!

**Stand UP!** As I said at the Back to School Rally, welcome back all of you- everyone who continues to **STAND UP** and take on all the innumerable tasks at hand that go with teaching with grace and dignity and to everyone who continues to **JUSTIFY** everything you do and teach **and** to everyone who **MAGNIFIES** and maximizes every effort to do the best for the kids of RBUSD! Have a good year!

-Amy Santa Cruz, President

*Every child deserves a chance to learn and no child succeeds alone.*