

BARGAINING, CALENDAR, TEACHER INPUT

The RBTA bargaining team consisting of Hilary Berry-Cahn, Donna Patillo, Linda Dillard and Monica Joyce and RBTA President Amy Santa Cruz presented the following comment at the February 9, 2010 RBUSD School Board meeting:

As representatives of the 432 teachers who belong to the Redondo Beach Teachers Association, we feel it is imperative to share with the Board that we are very much concerned with the state of education in California and here in Redondo Beach.

The parents and students in Redondo are lucky that through the efforts of the community, board members, administration, and teachers that our district does not have to pay for needed remodels or new buildings out of building funds or general funds. That has all been taken care of through Bond Measure C and as you drive around town, you will see new gymnasiums, the new aquatics center, new office remodels, new windows, etc.

*We would be remiss in not stating here in this public forum again and again and over and over **that** the district's reserve **and** the interest from the Aviation monies that have been referred to for years and years as the buffer for that "rainy day" should be used now. Isn't this the rainy day?*

Due to the economic crisis, the state of California allows district reserves to go down to 1.5% from a mandatory 3% Why are you not doing so? Again, isn't this the rainy day?

The teachers in the district have essentially had a pay reduction for the past 3 years because we have had to pay for the increase in the health and welfare benefit costs. We also have not had a salary increase for the past 3 years.

*We do more with less on an ongoing basis yet more schools have been identified as potential Distinguished Schools. And how many 900 schools **do** we have?*

On another note, we also want to say that we understand that parents and students want to know what the calendar will look like for next year – when school will begin and end, when the holidays will occur, etc. RBTA is in the process of collecting input from the bargaining unit members in regard to the calendar for 2010-11. We are going out to each site to ask the teachers for their feelings and ideas.

We have met with the district twice at the bargaining table and the calendar is one of the items that is being talked about and is negotiable.