



HEMET TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

Date: January 29, 2010
To: Brian Rokos
From: Jerry Hall, President Hemet Teacher Association

PRESS RELEASE - Negotiations

The HTA bargaining team met with the HUSD team on January 27 and January 28. Members present for HTA were Holly Guntermann, Jim Brigham, Troy Brown, Colleen Barton, Gary Cook and Robert Hudson. Karen Bost from CTA was also present for both sessions.

On the first day, discussion centered around possible program cuts and questions from HTA regarding the District's budget. The District claims that their program cuts were the most they could make. HTA feels that the cuts could and should go much deeper. There are a number of non personnel areas where the HUSD board of education is either refusing to make any cuts at all or where only minimal cuts are being proposed. In addition, we have concerns regarding the District's budgeting process and are questioning why large sums of money are being placed in budget categories where the District has historically spent millions of dollars less.

On the second day of bargaining the District proposed a 7% reduction in salary for all bargaining unit members. We were told that this could be configured in a combination of furlough days, salary reduction and/or freezing step increases. To put the numbers into perspective, 1% of salary for all HTA bargaining unit members is about \$828,251. This means that the HUSD board of education is asking teachers to give back \$5.8 million.

HTA has not agreed to the 7% or any salary reduction. We do understand that we are in tough economic times and it is not business as usual. However, we are committed to making informed and responsible decisions. We will continue to work collaboratively with the District to ensure that all cuts possible are made before we agree to a reduction in salary.

Future bargaining sessions have been scheduled for February 10 and 11.