

## **NEWS MESSENGER #12 - February 1, 2010**

### **Crab Dinner for Scholarships**

Last call for the annual SCTA event that raises funds for scholarships and shows the community that Sacramento teachers care. Join your colleagues at the Elks Lodge on Saturday, February 6, 2010 starting at 5pm. Tickets are still \$35 dollars each or \$350 for a table for 10. Call SCTA at 452-4591 to buy your tickets.

**Tickets cannot be purchased at the door!**

### **Charter School for Hmong Students: Bee Editorials and SCTA**

The Bee has been reporting a great deal of information about what is not going on regarding discussions over a proposed charter school for Hmong students. SCTA has previously reported in News Messenger its policies over the matter. The Bee is supporting a segregated school that will be supported by former district principals, be located in some unknown place, be exempt from District/SCTA personnel policies and programs, and move students from successful environments to who knows what.

SCTA has advised the District that it cannot support a charter school that is segregated, denies hiring and surplus placement in the same manner as other schools, operates on schedules that are out of sequence with other schools, and more costly than similar schools. SCTA believes that such a school would be more like an independent charter school, one that is not part of the school system in the same manner as Sacramento Charter High.

SCTA can support a specialized school that 1) earns the same funds as other schools in the district, not less; 2) provides teachers with the same teaching and working conditions as other schools and is open to the same rules for placements and layoffs, 3) operates on the same general calendar schedules to provide parents and students with equal opportunity and transfer opportunities, 4) offers a tested best practice curriculum open to all students in the District. If the District or some other charter interested proponents want a dependent charter, the school, or schools, or empty school need to be identified so that the Ed code rules regarding the conversion can be utilized in order to follow the law and to give SCTA the ability to work with the teachers at the identified school(s) to support their interest. Such a dependent charter should follow the expectations as listed, except for some better ideas that are mutually agreeable.

### **Lay Off Expectations and Information**

As reported earlier, SCTA is expecting major lay off notices for teachers. SCTA attorneys have received notice from the new District lawyers who advised that about 200 notices will be issued to teachers and teacher related positions. At this point SCTA does not know what programs will be targeted, but the expectation is that the District will again target K-3 CSR due to state budgeting rules that have created financial advantages for going back to 31 to 1. The District has said that it intends to sweep the tier 3 funds that are categorical and pay for certain programs and positions. SCTA will report what programs will be eliminated. Tier 3 program dollars can be used to support the general fund and its programs.

**Reminder. SCTA members have been given seniority, credential, HQT, and experience verification forms to review by their administrators. Make sure you have a copy. Make sure the information you gave or will give is accurate. If you think a correction is needed, make the correction and keep a copy.**

Last year, the District tried to skip over teachers with less seniority and was successful in one case. SCTA and the District reached a written settlement to deal with matter in the future. Teachers should be reminded that the Gov wants to give school districts the ability to lay off anyone a District wants to lay off.

Lay off notices will be given out in early March. Lay off hearings have already been set by SCTA and the Districts new lawyers. As of today, the dates for the hearings are April 12, 13, and 14. SCTA will set meetings with teachers to work with our attorneys. Part of the lay off notices for teachers will be done to make room for any administrators who may be laid off and moved into the SCTA unit based on their ed code rights. Last year, the District did not lay off any other District employee, only teachers. To be represented by CTA at the hearings, a teacher must be a member.

### **District and State Budget Issues**

The District is basing its budget forecast for next year on the Gov's proposal. Part of the proposal seeks a major reduction in central administration. The Gov's budget proposal would reduce Sac City admin between \$8m and \$20m. The District believes that the total deficit for next year will be about \$30m. Last year's deficit was about \$20m except for the federal bail out dollars.

Last year, about 180 teacher positions (primarily K3 CSR positions) were reduced from the SCTA unit. That is about \$14m. To put that amount into perspective, it would take about up to 20 furlough non paid days to support those positions. That same amount also represents about two thirds of the total dollars spent for SCTA medical coverage for teachers. The new District estimated budget deficit of \$30m represents a value of up to 25 additional furlough non-paid days and more than the total medical program. The two deficits together represent about 45 furlough days.

### **Some More Perspective and Some Good News**

The lay off list from last year has been reduced by quite a bit due to retirements, leaves, etc. There are now about 40 elementary teachers of the 180 who are still without a job. There is a likelihood of a federal jobs program bill that will bring funds to schools. Also, SCTA hopes to work with the District to place a Parcel Tax measure on the November ballot that will create funds for Small class sizes and Small schools.

Yes, the District will continue to have ongoing deficits so long as it chooses to maintain 90 school sites while Elk Grove and San Juan have fewer schools and more students. More schools means more Principals, VPs, secretaries, plant managers, custodians, parent advisors, and more overhead. To maintain small schools more funds are necessary.

### **Bee Report on Average Salaries in Sacramento Region**

Over recent years, SCTA has been reporting that our efforts to control average salaries and benefits with golden handshakes and other efforts would pay off. SCTA members' average salaries plus average benefits are far less than surrounding Districts. That means less cost for the District to help offset the huge cost of maintaining more schools and administration. More information will follow.