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UNIONS...What's so good about 'em?



You would have to be living in the proverbial "cabbage patch" if you have not heard all the negative press about unions lately, including the teachers' unions. Not one to take it sitting down, for the past year and a half, as your president, I have been working very hard to change the notion that we're such greedy, lazy "you know whats." When meeting with Dr. Jacobs, school board members, and principals (when "reping" for members) I have established and maintained an atmosphere of open, honest communication with the ultimate goal of professional collaboration. Your current BTA Executive Board has been working hard also and I so appreciate all their help and support. Below you will find comments from them:

I really appreciate getting our furlough days back, especially the teacher day after the students' last day in June and the student free day between semesters.

Barbara Bowles, Secondary Director

I am currently the elementary director and I am really pleased with the way BTA is representing teachers this year. I was very happy that we got the calendar changed to include our teacher planning days, before school, Feb. 1 and the day after the last day of school. Communication is continuing with the district and positive changes are being made.

Jackie Kimmell, Elementary Director

Looking back over the last year and a half I'm amazed at how much we as a union have accomplished. We have restored the dignity and respect of our union in BUSD. This has been achieved through effective communication with everyone from the superintendent, board members, and district staff to our fellow union members. We have a positive, open dialog that has been lacking for some time. We have shared concerns over our student's well being and our voices have been heard. We have accomplished much, such as:

- Earlier Back to School Night
- Earlier writing benchmark date
- Electing 2 out of 3 BTA endorsed board members
- Restoring our teacher planning days
- End of furloughs
- Increase to our insurance premiums
- Successful support to our union members through site visitations and representation
- Fighting senseless lawsuits that the district refuses to let go of
- Passage of Prop. 30
- Defeat of Prop. 32
- Passage of Measure B

(Over.... continued)

We have many things that we are still working on! We look forward to what Governor Brown's budget will reveal this May. We, as your Executive Board, have worked tirelessly to represent our members' concerns. We attend many, many meetings to make this happen.

- President's release day meeting
- Steering meetings (monthly)
- RCUT Board meetings (quarterly)
- Executive and Representative meetings (twice a month)
- Southeastern Service Center Council (CTA office) meetings
- State Council Meetings (quarterly – Friday through Sunday!)
- School Board Meetings
- Focus on Learning meetings (monthly)
- Superintendent meetings (monthly or more!)
- BTA mixers
- NEA-RA assembly ...etc...etc!



Please continue to support our efforts by letting your positive voice be heard!

Colin Davis – Vice President, PAC Chair, State Council Representative, past 3 time delegate to NEA-RA

Although it is not quite the completion of my term as your BTA president, I want to take this time to acknowledge your Board of Directors. Each one of them go the extra mile, attending meetings, answering my phone calls, helping teachers at their sites, and most of all, continue to support me. The job of president is no doubt tough and daunting and oh, endless. BUT no complaints here...I absolutely loved serving and helping the teachers in our school district. It has been a very rewarding experience and the best way to end my 40 year career in education. The icing on the cake is that I made great (and I hope, lasting) friendships with these wonderful colleagues.

“Mahalo nui loa !” (Thank you very much!)

Elayne



“Great schools are the result of great cooperation. Let's remember that it takes both the white and the black keys of the piano to play “the Star-Spangled Banner.”

Anonymous