



MEA SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

February 26, 2010

Important Notice: Special MEA Membership Meeting on Our Response to the Challenges Presented by the CCSF Budget – Monday, March 22, 2010

Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm, refreshments start at 5:30pm. Location: San Francisco Main Library Latino/Hispanic Rooms A&B, 100 Larkin Street at Grove. **The Library is closed on Monday nights, so please plan to arrive before 6:00 p.m.** If you arrive after 6:00 p.m., you can enter at the far right door of the Grove Street entrance by calling the security office at 415-557-4357. RSVP early to staff@sfmea.com.

Agenda:

Labor Coalition Discussions
37.5 Hour Workweek
Report from MEA Budget Response Committee
Next Steps

City Moves to Implement 37.5 Hour Workweek Proposal – MEA Responds

In a move that signals the severity of the budget crisis but is also certain to embroil the City in an expensive and time-consuming legal battle, the City has announced that it plans to issue lay-off notices to between 10,000 and 15,000 employees this Friday, March 5. *These notices will be issued a mere 15 days after the City sent letters to the majority of employee representatives including MEA requesting that they “Meet and Confer” on the proposal.*

On February 23 – two work days later - the SF Labor Council’s Public Employees’ Coalition (PEC) responded by noting that they believed “that implementation of this decision would violate the terms of the City’s collective bargaining agreements” but were willing to meet to “discuss alternatives for closing the projected budget gap.” The City’s February 24 response disagreed with that contractual interpretation but did agree to meet. That meeting took place on February 24 and the Mayor attended along with his Chief of Staff, Budget Director and the team from DHR.

At that meeting the PEC presented a preliminary framework for addressing the budget gap that included a shared solution model incorporating PSC savings (including CBOs), operational efficiency (including a review of purchasing practices), revenue (tax and fee increases) and – as part of such a larger solution – a willingness to discuss labor concessions. A second meeting is tentatively set for the week of March 1.

MEA’s legal counsel believes that the 37.5 hour workweek cannot be implemented unilaterally in its bargaining units for various contractual and legal reasons and will be prepared to make those arguments in the appropriate forum as necessary.

In addition to preparing a legal defense against unilateral implementation, the PEC is making arrangements for an independent economist to review the City’s budget revenue and expenditure projections and make recommendations on alternatives. MEA President Eileen Hirst and the MEA Board have constituted a Budget Response Committee which will continue meeting and developing recommendations up until the Special MEA Membership Meeting on the CCSF Budget set for March 22.

MEA will continue to work, both in concert with the PEC and independently, to secure a budget solution that incorporates transparency, accountability, equity and sustainability. In the event that the MEA Board is prepared to make a recommendation to MEA members about our role in closing the budget gap, that recommendation will be widely disseminated and, ultimately, will be voted on by the membership.

**REMINDER: Board of Supervisor David Chiu with C.W. Nevius
Monday, March 1, 2010 at the SF Public Library 6:00pm**