

## **Bargaining Update: February 5, 2008**

### **Reconstitution**

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, F-SUTA and the District met at the PERB Board to begin settlement negotiations on the unfair reconstitution of 41 unit members. F-SUTA presented comprehensive proposals that addressed the needs of reconstituted unit members. The District's proposal was basically three pages of legal jargon that offered little to no relief on this issue. The attorneys for F-SUTA have written a letter to the School Board regarding this issue encouraging them to offer a fair settlement. The next date is set for March 4, if the District plans on fairly negotiating the issues, otherwise we will go to a Hearing on the issue. We appreciate those who wore **ORANGE** on the 29<sup>th</sup> to support the reconstituted teachers – United we Stand!

On Tuesday, February 5, 2008, the F-SUTA Bargaining Team met and compiled information written on the DAM Sheets. We appreciate the information that we have received. If you have not turned in your DAM sheet, please do so and we will add your input.

### **2007- 2008 Bargaining Issues**

There was no movement on the District's side regarding salary/benefits and has not been since May 2007. The F-UTA Executive-Board directed the bargaining team to call for impasse, which we did at the end of the bargaining session. What does that mean? Impasse is the process that allows for a mediator to come in and work with both sides to try to reach an agreement. F-SUTA and the District will have to agree upon who the state appointed mediator will be. It takes about two to three weeks to get assigned a mediator. **F-SUTA will continue to bargain with the District in hopes of coming to a fair settlement which is our goal.**

The District informed us that Ron Hawkins, Supt. Goldstone, and Sarah Johnson, (Kari's Sousa's replacement while on leave) are going to present a proposal to the Board on salary/benefits that are in line with the surrounding Districts who have settled. F-SUTA does appreciate this, but we need to see it writing so that we have proof that the District is making teachers a priority. F-SUTA informed the District that we look forward to hearing that proposal as soon as possible.

Let's remember that other Districts have received the following increases:

Napa – 5.5%

St. Helena – over 5%

County – 4% (including benefit increase)

Vacaville – offered 4.5%

Benicia – 6.5%

**Let's stick together and get our fair share too! This is the time to wear **ORANGE** on Wednesdays!!!**

**Next Bargaining Dates: February 15, 29**

F-SUTA Bargaining Team: Rosemary Louissaint, Kevin McNamara, Stephanie Cobb,  
Shari Salomon, Travis Nelson