

# THE ADVOCATE

## Members take to the streets protesting cuts

More than 1,000 educators, students, parents and community members marched from Roosevelt Middle School to the San Diego Unified School Board meeting on May 1 to protest education cuts and pre-K through grade 12 layoffs in SDUSD. Marchers demanded that the District immediately recall the nearly 1,700 unnecessary layoff notices issued by the District (nearly one in four SDUSD educators).

The march brought additional community attention to the need for the District to rescind all unnecessary layoff notices and not balance the budget on the backs of educators and students.

“Laying-off nearly 1,700 San Diego educators will hurt our kids and cost our community in the long run,” said Early Childhood Education teacher Rebeca Reynoso-Luna, who received a pink slip after 20 years in the District. “It’s easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults.”

After a rally at Roosevelt Middle School where the crowd was addressed by fellow educators, parents, community members, and pro-education mayoral candidate and Congressman Bob Filner, the marchers took to the streets. Flanked by a San Diego Police Department motorcade, the marchers shut down the northbound lanes of Park Boulevard as they made their way to the District office to express their displeasure with the School Board’s refusal to rescind layoff notices.

Once arriving at the District office, marchers lined the building’s lawn with placards listing the number of layoff notices received by members at each school site. The placards were created by SDEA Association Representative Bobbe Abts and other teachers at the rally’s host school, Roosevelt Middle School.

Banners listing cell phone numbers for each Board member were unveiled as the Board



**SDEA members march for education! See pages 4-5 for an extensive photo gallery. See pages 3, 6 and 8 to see how SDEA members are “fighting the fight, site by site!”**

meeting began. Marchers then took photos of the massive crowd from their cell phones and sent them to the board members along with a personal plea to

rescind layoff notices.

“Teachers have already taken cuts to our pay and

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## CFO admits on the stand: SDUSD over-noticed

The SDEA permanent member layoff hearing held in late April was kicked off with a rowdy rally by SDEA members in front of Kearny High School on April 18. In a great showing of solidarity, pink-slipped teachers, nurses, school psychologists and counselors donned their red

SDEA shirts and hit the pavement to march against yet another round of needless layoffs.

Once inside, the hearing was the scene of further budget obfuscation on the part of District officials. Ron Little, the now former District CFO, testified that the District is

projected to have a \$120 million budget deficit next year. But then during cross-examination, Little admitted that the District is actually anticipating a \$71 million surplus at the end of this year, above required reserves, that will roll over into next year and could offset the projected

budget deficit. This is the second year in a row wherein Little’s hearing testimony verified that the District issued more layoffs than are fiscally necessary.

Other revealing testimony included the District’s admission

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# It's time for the Board to do what's right

On Tuesday, May 1, more than 1,000 educators, students, parents and community members came together to march from Roosevelt Middle School to the San Diego Unified Board of Education protesting against education cuts.



## Letters in Solidarity

Bill Freeman  
SDEA President

I want to thank everyone that attended this event because for me it was a clear sign that no matter how hard the road ahead will be, we will prevail in our fight to protect our students and this honorable profession.

It was also great to see that we weren't the only game in town on May 1. Across San Diego thousands of working people marched, rallied, chanted and stood united to call attention to the devastating impact that budget cuts and misplaced priorities have had on our local communities.

On the subject of misplaced priorities, I'm sure many of you are aware that Superintendent Kowba sent us all a letter just as we were marching up Park Boulevard. In his letter, Kowba predicted that more than 1,400 educators will receive final layoff notices come May 25.

## NEA visitors salute SDEA organizing efforts

Joyce Powell and Paula Monroe, members of the National Education Association (NEA) Executive Committee (a body that meets monthly with NEA's elected officers) visited SDEA the week of April 23 to review the success of the SDEA's charter organizing project. While they were here, they visited several schools and saw firsthand how members are coping with layoffs in our schools.

helped phone bank for two nights to talk to members about participating in the May 1 March against education cuts. At the phone banks, they worked with SDEA members and got to hear from them about how each one was turning out teachers, students, and parents to the march.

"SDEA members are getting a raw deal," Powell said as she spoke to members at SDEA's phone bank, "and NEA is going to fight side-by-side with you to restore the commitment to public education that political leaders have taken away."

our students and educators when even the District's CFO admitted at April's certificated layoff hearings that 400 to 500 of the pink slips were unnecessary based on the District's own faulty numbers?

Enough is enough. It's time to work together for the School Board to protect our kids. The District must end the games, stop posturing, and make a commitment to do what's necessary to protect our schools. There are alternatives to budgeting in the dark and putting the future of our students at risk. School members weren't elected to run a business; they were elected to ensure that every child in this District has access to a great education in a safe environment.

Bill Freeman  
SDEA President



NEA Executive Committee member Paula Monroe (top) and Laura Shear from Dingeman Elementary phone bank for the May 1 March.

# Fighting the fight... site by site!

## Hoover rally sparks broad city attention



SDEA members at Hoover High School, along with parents, students and other school staff, held a rally protesting layoffs in front of the school on April 13. A large number of students, including the whole football team, joined dozens of educators and parents for the pre-dawn action.

"This rally is in response to the District's issuance of 31 notices to educators at Hoover

High School alone and over 1600 notices to educators throughout the District," said Hoover High School teacher and SDEA AR David Erving.

The rally was a major success and a shining example of what an action that earns real media attention looks like. At one point during the rally, no fewer than five local television stations were broadcasting live from the school.

## Crown Point holds Barnett accountable



SDEA members at Crown Point organized a meeting with School Board member Scott Barnett to ask him to do everything he can to protect our District's schools and programs. A delegation of more than 20 educators, parents and classified staff prepared a series of questions for Barnett, including asking him to support SDEA's

layoff impacts and effects bargaining proposals around members' transfer rights to increase stability within our school communities. Barnett acknowledged that the District "over noticed" many educators. Participants hope that their conversation may result in an end to the District's unnecessary layoffs.

## EB Scripps educates parents about District layoffs

As a staff, members at EB Scripps decided that they wanted to leaflet parents about the May 1 March and have them sign postcards. The message was no layoffs, and protecting our classrooms and schools. On two different days members passed out the flyers and encouraged parents to sign the postcards. Members also had conversations with parents about their concerns with the District's budget. Members collected nearly 200 signed postcards,

and site AR and SDEA Secretary Lindsay Burningham and other members delivered them at the May 1 Board meeting.

"When I delivered them I spoke about the concerns that staff and parents shared with me," says Burningham. "Our budget concerns included the safety of our students due to reductions in nursing and counseling, the quality of our instruction due to increased class size (1/3 more students = 1/3 less time meeting with individual students), and reduction to arts programs."



EB Scripps teachers celebrate after several days of successful parent outreach about the impact of layoffs.



# MAY DAY MARCH FOR EDUCATION!





# Fighting the fight... *site by site!*

## ECE teachers protest gutting of their program

More than 80 percent of the teachers in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program received pink slips. The ECE Program, which serves more than 4,000 children ages two through five from low-income San Diego families, would be gutted by layoffs. ECE educators with as many as 25 years of service to SDUSD received layoff notices. The teachers held a rally in advance of the School Board meeting on April 24.

To build parent support, teachers talked to parents about how layoffs would essentially eliminate the program that their families depend on. They urged parents to join them at the rally to stand up against layoffs, and in support of early childhood education. More than 200, including about 50 parents, participated in the rally. Members also reached out to the media to ensure that citizens throughout San Diego are aware of program cuts.



Teachers and students rally outside the School Board (top), while Colleen Andrews (above) speak out about the importance of ECE programs. Members were joined by parents as well at the April 24 School Board rally (left).



## Burbank teachers, parents put pressure on Barrera

SDEA members at Burbank realized that parent-teacher conferences were the perfect opportunity to involve parents in their efforts to hold their Board member, Richard Barrera, accountable for his layoff decision. During conferences, members had

postcards available for parents to fill out demanding that Barrera do the right thing. They collected several hundred, and invited Barrera to a meeting to receive them. When he ignored the invitation, they formed a contingent to deliver them to Barrera at the Ed. Center.



## Hearing

*Continued from p. 1*

SDUSD sent out layoff notices to 400-500 SDEA members above and beyond what SDUSD deemed necessary even in its own worst case scenario predictions.

In an attempt to create divisions among SDEA's membership, the District called witnesses to testify in support of deviating from seniority through a subjective and unwieldy process. The process for deviating from seniority in issuing layoffs, often referred to as "skipping," was the point of so much confusion and controversy that the presiding judge ordered an extraordinary fourth day of layoff hearing. That hearing day was scheduled to take place on May 9 as of printing.

In addition to the testimony from District officials, SDEA unit members testified passionately about the negative impact that these layoffs will have on our students. School Nurse Juliet dela Paz, in often tearful and moving testimony, talked about the fears she had for all of the children she serves if these layoffs were to go through. She also talked about the irrationality of the District's plan that would leave a mere 84 nurses to serve the more than 131,000 students throughout the District.



More than 500 pink-slipped members protest cuts before the hearing.

### AR/CR Election Reminder

Have you elected your Site Rep(s) for next school year, 2012-2013? Every site *must* hold an election. AR/CR Election material is available on SDEA's website. Please make sure your site is represented during the 2012-1013 school year. For SDEA Election material and updates please call SDEA at 619-283-4411 or visit [www.sdea.net/about/sdea-elections](http://www.sdea.net/about/sdea-elections).

### Annual Notice

A designated portion of SDEA dues is normally allocated to the SDEA Political Action Committee, a general purpose County PAC, through which SDEA/PAC principally supports or opposes local candidates or issues. If you wish this dues amount to remain in the SDEA general fund, contact Larry Moreno at 619-283-4411. In addition, a designated portion of CTA dues is normally allocated to the Association for Better Citizenship (ABC/CTA), a bipartisan political fund through which CTA provides financial support for education issues and CTA-endorsed candidates for local and state offices. Members who choose not to allocate a portion of their dues to the CTA/ABC, but instead want it to remain in the general fund, should complete a CTA-General Fund Allocation Form. Contact Larry Moreno at 619-283-4411 to obtain a copy of the form.



# Fighting the fight... *site by site!*

## Members at Rowan are getting active

Rowan Elementary, which has historically been a quiet school when it comes to union issues, came together in a big way for the May 1 March. SDEA AR and Special Education Teacher Gina Marrone rallied colleagues to take action in opposition to the District's noticing of nearly a quarter of the District's certificated staff. Members leafleted parents before school for several days leading up to the march. Rowan's organizing activities were topped off by the May 1 march, when almost all of the small, but tight-knit group of SDEA members at Rowan took part in the march.



SDEA AR Gina Marrone, center right, along with part of the contingent from Rowan at the May 1 March.

## May 1

*Continued from p. 1*

healthcare,” said Lincoln High School teacher Guillermo Gomez. “But our school board needs to get real. If we want an excellent education for our children, we have to make teaching a good job that talented and motivated people want to have. Laying off teachers year after year doesn’t do that.”

Gomez, who brought 50 of his students to march with him, has received a pink-slip each of his five years in the District, only to be brought back to work each time.

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## Nubia teachers' organizing efforts save their school

Teachers and parents at Nubia Leadership Academy are celebrating this month after successfully organizing to save their community charter school. On Friday, May 4 the SDUSD Board voted unanimously to renew the school's charter for the next five years, on the condition that Nubia establishes a democratically elected governance board and meets important academic benchmarks. Educators at Nubia joined SDEA earlier this school year. They are the fourth charter school to unionize with SDEA in the past six months.

This victory follows a tough few years at Nubia, where educators had to endure five administrative changes along with other challenges. In October they decided to

organize the union so teachers could have more control over the school's future. After winning recognition of their union they continued to work together, helped get parents involved, and began the process of rewriting their school's charter document. The approval was the culmination of the community coming together to save their school.

After the Board's approval of the charter renewal, Linda Sennett, who has been teaching third and fourth grade at Nubia for 13 years said, "Right now I am ready to burst out of my skin I am so happy! This gives our community a chance to build on our strong tradition at Nubia. This struggle has made teachers and parents even more invested in our school."