

# THE ADVOCATE

## Flood of support for **FIGHT FOR 5!**

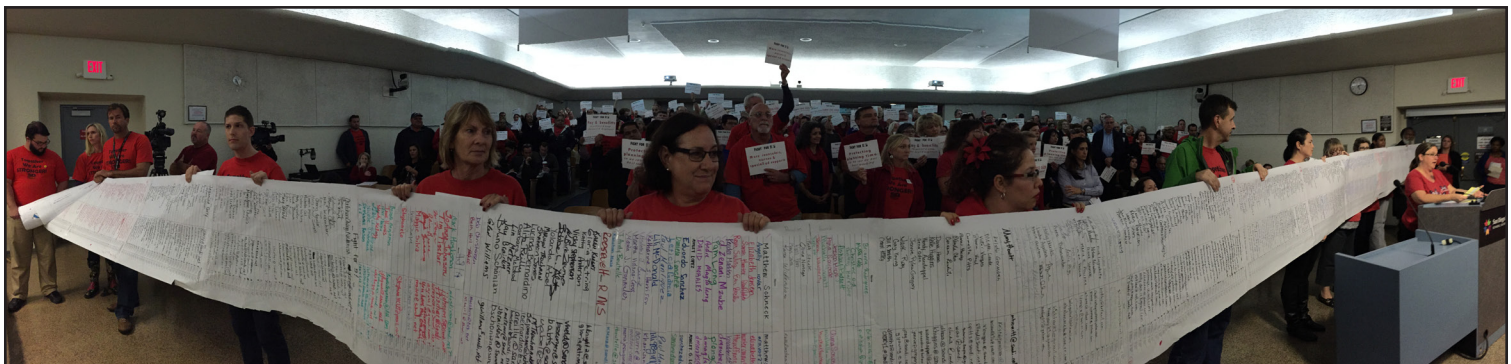
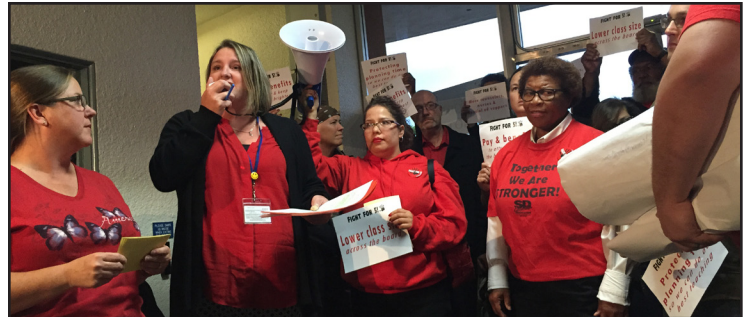
Braving the rain, hundreds of SDEA members, parents and community members flooded the School Board meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 2 demanding that the Board settle a *Fight for 5!* contract *now!* Members and parents were united behind one clear message: The School Board needs to spend the hundreds of millions of new Prop. 30 dollars where they belong—in the classroom—not on double-digit raises for central office administrators.

Rally-goers rolled our *Fight for 5!* petition all the way down the District office hallway and out the doors before carrying it into the Board room. The petition was signed by nearly 5,000 supporters and spans the length of a football field! A delegation of SDEA members unfurled the petition in front of the Board, and challenged the District to come back to the table with a fair proposal that includes all of our *Fight for 5!* principles. Hundreds of supporters stood in support, cheering and holding *Fight for 5!* signs, with overflow crowds spilling out to the hallways and sidewalks.

When SDEA members and parents stand together, it works! Responding to pressure, the District requested to come back to the bargaining table a week early, and SDEA's bargaining team agreed. That's a good first step. Now it's time for the School Board to send their team to the table with a proposal that will rebuild our classrooms and respect our educators with a *Fight for 5!* settlement. If SDEA members and parents continue to stand united behind the *Fight for 5!*, we *will* win a fair contract!

Missed the rally? You can check out the photo gallery on the SDEA website, or check out the news coverage at <http://tinyurl.com/17moj27>.

**Together We Are Stronger!**





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## Letters in Solidarity

Lindsay Burningham  
SDEA President

Michelle Sanchez  
SDEA Vice President



## Fight for 5! laying solid groundwork

Over the past month SDEA members have circulated our *Fight for 5!* petition throughout our schools and communities to show the District that these are the priorities of not only our SDEA leadership and bargaining team, but the priorities of thousands of educators, parents and community members in San Diego Unified! Throughout the process, educators have been engaging with parents and community members about key issues that impact their child's education. Through the *Fight for 5!*, we are building relationships that we hope to sustain long after a fair contract settlement.

Petitions signatures were gathered from more than 80 schools or departments, including signatures from nearly 1,800 educators, 800 community members, 250 students, and in a great show of solidarity from our parents, more than 2,000 parent signatures! The petition also included more than 10 local presidents of teacher unions across San Diego County, and many signatures from our classified brothers and sisters in the District. Our petition spans the entire length of the District office, and was presented to the Superintendent and School Board

on Dec. 2 when hundreds of members packed the Board room and spilled out into the hallways and sidewalks—in the rain!

More important than the strength and solidarity shown by the thousands of educators, parents, students and community members who signed the petition are the strong relationships we are building along the way. These relationships will continue to help us rebuild our schools long after our current bargaining campaigns, as we work to:

- Build powerful Site Governance Teams that ensure educators and parents have a strong voice in the decisions at their schools,
- Provide an equitable education for ALL students across the District, and
- Create community schools the reflect the diverse needs and students in the communities we serve.

We wish all of our members a happy and healthy holidays!

*Lindsay Burningham*  
**Lindsay Burningham**  
SDEA President

*Michelle Sanchez*  
**Michelle Sanchez**  
SDEA Vice President

## Members join Wilson community walk

A City Heights Community Walk began and ended at Wilson Middle School on Saturday, Nov. 15. Community members walked the Corridor Neighborhood of City Heights. Daniel Wright, a member of the

Corridor and Teralta West Neighborhood Alliance Group, led the walk. Wilson Middle School parents, students, teachers and other community members walked together with the SDPD, the City Heights Community Development Corporation, and the Corridor and Teralta West Neighborhood Alliance to reach their mission. That mission is to create a supportive network among Corridor and Teralta West neighbors, while encouraging a sense of ownership, community pride, and neighborhood safety.



SDEA Organizing Committee member Mary Jane Zappia, Speech Therapist and School Advisor for the Cesar Chavez Service Club at Wilson, walked with the founders of the Cesar Chavez Service Club (Carlos and Linda LeGerrette) and the Wilson Chavistas that day.

"It's so important for us as SDEA members to engage parents, other educators, and the community at large to build a movement for justice and democracy in public education," Zappia said.



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## SDEA Scholarships

The 2015 SDEA member and dependent scholarship applications are available now. Applications are for current SDEA/CTA/NEA members and/or their dependents. The dependent application is for graduating seniors and current college-enrolled students who are dependents of current members. The member application is for current members who wish to further their own education. To download a copy of the applications visit the SDEA website at [www.sdea.net](http://www.sdea.net). The deadline to submit completed application is May 1, 2015. Good luck to all applicants.

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CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS



## Risky Business: Covering ineligible dependents in your health plan

Making Health Care Better for Everyone



As a member of the California Schools VEBA, you can cover your eligible dependents in your health plan. However if your dependent is not eligible, it is risky business. Here's why:

- **The insurance company may not cover services** if your ineligible dependent needs care. This means you will be left to pay the bill.
- **It's against the law** and you may have to pay a penalty to the government.
- **Your dependent may have to wait to get other coverage.**

In most cases, ineligible dependents are covered due to an oversight. For example, you may not have updated your benefits information after a divorce. Or, you may have a child who was previously eligible for benefits but now is older than the age limit of 26.

If you haven't updated your benefits information in a while or have had a change in status, please contact your District Benefits Office.

### Who Can Join Your Health Plan

This chart shows who can join your health plan. If you have a dependent in your plan in the "NO" column, contact your District Benefits Office. They will help you find the best way to get your dependent the right coverage.

YES	NO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ex-Spouse/Partner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic Partner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Former Stepchild
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child-Biological	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child-Step	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grandparent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child-Adopted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children over age 26
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child-Guardianship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grandchildren
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child-Disabled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sibling
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aunt/Uncle
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Niece/Nephew/Cousin
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Girlfriend/Boyfriend