

# THE ADVOCATE

# S



## Board approves 1,000+ unnecessary layoffs

When School Board members Richard Barrera, Shelia Jackson and John Lee Evans, encouraged by Superintendent Bill Kowba, voted to lay off 1,074 SDEA members, they made a choice. That choice was not inevitable, it was not necessary, and it was not right.



# H



Now SDEA members have a choice. We can choose to allow politicians at the local, state and national level to continue to dismantle our public education system piece by piece until there is simply nothing left. Or we can choose to stand and fight, to turn back the tide of underfunding, privatization and teacher-bashing. We can choose to lead a movement of educators, parents and community members to demand that our schools be funded, staffed and supported from bottom to top at the levels that meet the needs of our students—not the needs of politicians and bureaucrats.



# A



Beginning today, SDEA members must lead in an all-out assault against those who are taking our schools apart. We must begin here at home, with Barrera and his band of District economists and clinicians, until every single one of these layoffs is undone. And we must continue throughout our communities and across the state, working to secure adequate funding through the June special election.



Roughly 1,200 SDEA members packed the Board meeting and picketed out front to protest layoffs.

# M



If we are to protect our schools and our students' futures, now and moving forward, we need more than single, short-term victories. We need to build a social movement. That means moving beyond our familiar strategies of large-scale rallies and Board actions—those must be merely a starting point. We must add to our toolbox a scalpel. The way we will win long-term is through *collective* actions that are strategic, localized, community-based and ongoing.

SDEA must turn tragedy to opportunity! Together we will lead to take back our schools.

# E



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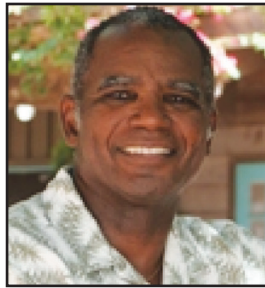
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## Letters in Solidarity

Bill Freeman  
SDEA President

Camille Zombro  
SDEA Vice President



## Our strength lies in our solidarity



SDEA Members—

The School Board's decision to lay off more than 1,000 of our SDEA brothers and sisters is one of the most devastating threats our union has faced in our recent history. These layoffs will mean unforgiveably large class sizes, an unacceptable decrease in the level of nursing, counseling and other support services to our neediest students, and wide-spread systemic instability across our District.

## Collective bargaining dead in WI. Who is next?

In a shameful and probably illegal maneuver, Republicans in the Wisconsin state legislature voted on March 9 to kill the rights of public sector workers to form unions. In order to pass the bill without the presence of the Wisconsin Senate's 14 Democrats, Republicans pulled the anti-union provision from the budget bill and voted on it as a stand-alone item.

This vote occurred over the protest of thousands of Wisconsin workers, and clearly signals that attacks on unions have nothing to do with fiscal woes and everything to do with long-term business interests in destroying our ability to bargain for fair pay, adequate healthcare and a voice in our workplaces.

Already in California Republican legislators have begun to suggest that public sector unions are the primary obstacle to effective schools. Unions form the backbone of the American middle class, and already the tide is turning as workers nationwide stand up against these threats. We should be proud that our local work to fight layoffs and secure school funding is part of this broader movement!

While the emotional and financial impact of these notices to our members will be great, the impact to our students' futures will be far greater.

SDEA members must not stand for this assault on our schools, our students and our fellow educators. Now more than ever we must remain together. Our ability to fight these layoffs is in our strength, and our strength is in our solidarity. If we allow ourselves to become divided—to debate *how* to lay off teachers, instead of *why* these layoffs are needless in the first place—then we have already lost. But if we stand in solidarity, each of us as committed as the next to protecting every single job, every single classroom, every single school, then our success is inevitable.

Now more than ever we must put truth in these words: **Together we are stronger!**

#### In Solidarity,

*Bill Freeman*  
Bill Freeman  
SDEA President

*Camille Zombro*  
Camille Zombro  
SDEA Vice President

## SDEA organizing helps kill SD4GS June ballot measure

Thanks in large part to the hard work of SDEA members at more than 30 of our schools, the self-anointed 'San Diegans 4 Great Schools' group has failed to gather enough signatures to place their Schools Takeover initiative on the ballot for the June special election. The initiative would have added four appointed members to our current five-member democratically elected School Board. Members at 30 schools fought the initiative by gathering signatures from SDEA members and parents on a petition in support of democratic school governance.

While keeping the measure off of the June ballot is a real victory, SD4GS can continue to gather signatures to place their initiative on the regular Nov. 2012 ballot. It is crucial that SDEA members continue to form relationships and have real conversations with parents and community members about the importance of working together to protect our children and schools from destructive outside special interests.

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