

# THE ADVOCATE

## Sunshine on the **FIGHT FOR 5!**

Nearly 200 SDEA members packed the School Board meeting on Tuesday, March 11 to kick off our Fight for Five! bargaining campaign. A delegation of union members from the SDEA Bargaining Team, Bargaining Commission and Board spoke passionately in support of SDEA's initial bargaining proposal, while hundreds of SDEA members, classified union members, parents and students stood in support. Last week's powerful public launch of our Fight for Five! campaign marks the first formal step in the bargaining

process, with our initial proposal being "sunshined" to the Board and public. The proposal is available to download on the SDEA website, and the full sunshine presentation is online at [youtube.com/user/SDEAUnion](http://youtube.com/user/SDEAUnion).

Union members can carry the momentum forward through continued parent and community outreach in the next few weeks, in preparation for the District's "sunshine" proposal being presented at the April 8 School Board meeting. Talk to your AR and plan to attend your site union meeting this month to learn more and get involved.



**SDEA bargaining team member Christina Boyd (Bethune counselor) spoke as part of SDEA's "sunshine" delegation, underscoring the need for more counselors and nurses.**



**From left: Iris Anderson (Ross), SDEA Secretary Michelle Sanchez (Garfield), Vivian Griffin (Freese), SDEA Board member Jenny Rivera (Dailard) and Carter Anderson (Perkins).**



**From left: SDEA Vice President and bargaining team member Lindsay Burningham (E.B. Scripps), Sandy Paik (Dana) and Heather Montgomery (Ross).**



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# Letters in Solidarity

Bill Freeman  
SDEA President



Lindsay Burningham  
SDEA Vice President

## Rock the vote in the spring election!

As a democratically-run organization, SDEA is only as strong as the members who participate. Next month, members at every school in the District will have the opportunity to vote for SDEA board and officer positions. We strongly urge each and every member to participate by voting between April 4 and 17.

The SDEA Election Committee has worked hard to ensure that every member has an opportunity to vote, regardless of where they are located. Voting will be easier than ever, with electronic ballots being emailed to each member with a personal email address on file with SDEA. If you haven't provided a personal email address, or need to update your information, please visit [www.sdeaemail.com](http://www.sdeaemail.com). Members without a personal email address on file must pick up a paper ballot at the SDEA office.

Never doubt the importance of your vote. In 1839, the Governor of Massachusetts was elected by

just two votes. Proposition 98, California's landmark school funding initiative, became law by a margin of just 1.4 percent. In 2008, Minnesota's Senate seat was decided by just .01%. All three examples show that each and every vote counts.

Now, it will be up to you as an SDEA member to ensure that your voice is heard in this election, and that SDEA remains a strong, member-driven union. Educators have significant decisions to make over the next few years. Our bargaining will more than likely be ongoing and the new leadership will advise the bargaining team by setting parameters as to the bargaining proposals and the direction of our union. We encourage each member to make sure your voice is heard by voting in this election.

*Bill Freeman*  
Bill Freeman  
SDEA President

*Lindsay Burningham*  
Lindsay Burningham  
SDEA Vice President

## Announcements

### SDEA Budget Hearings

SDEA will be conducting budget hearings from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 24 at the SDEA office. These hearings are an opportunity for members to give input on the SDEA budget before it is initially presented to the Rep. Council in May and adopted in June.

### SDEA Elections

Voting in the SDEA Spring 2014 General Election will take place April 4-17. Ballots will be sent to members via email on April 4. In order to vote electronically, you must have a personal email address on file with SDEA by Monday, March 24. You can submit or change your email address at [www.sdeaemail.com](http://www.sdeaemail.com). Members who do not have an email address on file, or who wish to vote with a paper ballot, can pick up a paper ballot at the SDEA office during the voting window.

## Farewell Maureen!

Congratulations to SDEA Secretary Maureen Purvis on her upcoming retirement. Originally hired in the early '90s by then-SDTA Executive Director Bill Harju, Maureen has been the face of SDEA for almost 21 years. During that time, the staff and members of SDEA have grown to love her for her outgoing, sweet personality and her ability to listen to anyone's issues with a caring attitude. When you enter the door at SDEA immediately you're greeted by a beautiful smiling face and soft voice.



While Maureen will be missed by all, she certainly deserves her retirement. She will be a hard person to replace. While we are deeply saddened to see her go, we know she'll find success, happiness and will be loved by all wherever she goes. In the near future, Maureen is planning to travel during her retirement and have as much fun as possible. She has lots of family to visit and two girls to keep her running at a fast pace. Let's wish Maureen the best in all her future endeavors!

# Holding them accountable: Barrera and Beiser

Accountability sessions with School Board members are continuing this spring. SDEA members are educating trustees about our Fight for 5! campaign to rebuild our schools, and asking them to support our bargaining priorities.

## **Barrera: Strong on Class Size; Iffy on Benefits**

SDEA members met with Trustee Richard Barrera at Hoover High School. Members asked Barrera about his position on a SERP, which he supported and subsequently voted for.

But on the issue of maintaining current health benefits, Barrera was not on the same page with the members. Barrera said he supported a fully funded family plan for SDEA members, but suggested capping fully paid benefits at the Kaiser family rate. This elicited a strong response from the educators present, who pointed out to Barrera that the

SDUSD benefits package is one of few bright spots in our compensation package. Barrera himself acknowledged that the “savings from moving to one plan are often exaggerated” and said a plan redesign was not a deal breaker for him.

Barrera was passionate about smaller classes sizes, but did not commit to anything concrete.

## **Beiser: Solid on Class Size, Benefits; Softer on Wages**

Members from throughout the Serra Cluster met with Trustee Kevin Beiser at Serra High School. Beiser strongly supported maintaining the current healthcare plan through VEBA. He said he looks at class sizes, nurse, counselor and special education caseloads, and preparation and planning time from his perspective as a teacher in the Sweetwater district, and supports making improvements in all of



**Union members met with School Board Trustees Richard Barrera (top) and Kevin Beiser (above) to discuss our Fight for 5! bargaining campaign to rebuild public schools.**

those areas in the upcoming negotiations.

When asked to commit to improving wages, Beiser stated his support for our upcoming “7% raise” and argued that our healthcare is among the best.

Members pointed out that the 5% restoration (not 7% raise) still leaves our pay below the median County-wide, and he finally acknowledged that improvements in compensation still need to be made.



## **Protect your income with Disability Insurance from The Standard.**

You work hard for your money. But what if you couldn't work due to an illness or injury? Take steps to protect your income with CTA-endorsed Disability Insurance from The Standard. Choose the plan designed to meet the needs of educators like you and supported by a CTA-dedicated customer service team. Learn how The Standard can protect what's important to you at [CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard](http://CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard).



For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, benefit waiting periods, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800-522-0406 (TTY). Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 GP 190-LTD/S399/CTA.1 SI 15885-CTAvol

## **Beyond Your Pension The Bigger Retirement Picture**

This seminar can help you learn how to create your own retirement income stream. Topics include:

- Determining how much you'll need
  - Simplifying your choices
- Creating your personal income strategy



Join us at our **FREE** seminar:  
**Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 4:30 p.m.**  
**SDEA Conference Room**  
**RSVP: 619-282-8399 (Space is limited!)**

For information, contact these Financial Service Representatives:

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# Our promise:

**To support those who support our children.**

That's why we've teamed with the California Teachers Association to provide access to **auto and home insurance** designed exclusively for you and your fellow educators.

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Making Health Care Better for Everyone



## Focus on Health: National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month, and VEBA and CaféWell are offering members the chance to be rewarded for eating right. Here's what to do:

- Sign on to CaféWell
- Visit the challenge page at [www.cafewell.com/challenges/a-taste-for-nutrition](http://www.cafewell.com/challenges/a-taste-for-nutrition)
- Record the number of days that you "Enjoy the Taste of Eating Right" by choosing meals that both taste good and are good for you.

### CaféWell Has Tools To Help Make Good Choices

For example, find the best restaurant choices while you're on the go. Visit the Healthy Dining Finder at [www.healthydiningfinder.com](http://www.healthydiningfinder.com). Just enter a zip code and get a list of restaurants with healthy options near you. This tool even tells you what your options are (example: a petite filet with no butter at a steakhouse or the Caribbean Chicken Salad at Chili's).

By using the CaféWell tools, you will automatically be entered in the CaféWell sweepstakes for prizes such as Amazon Gift Cards.

Good luck and great eating, VEBA Members!

### CaféWell

Did you know that as a VEBA member, you have free access to CaféWell?

CaféWell is an online program that connects you with healthy rewards, health coaching, and wellness activities. Sign up today!  
[www.cafewell.com/code/csveba](http://www.cafewell.com/code/csveba)

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