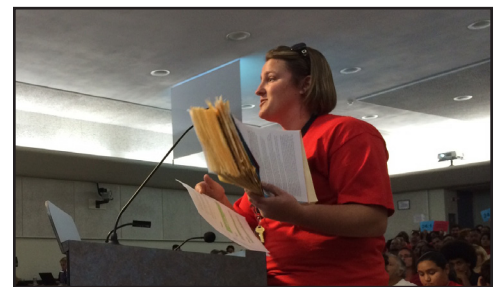


THE ADVOCATE

Union members fight to protect K-3 class size, prevent penalties

Roughly 150 SDEA members, parents and students packed the auditorium at the Oct. 1 School Board meeting demanding that the Board and Superintendent Cindy Marten—a former proponent of smaller classes when she was a principal—return K-3 class size to 24:1. SDEA members delivered a petition signed by nearly 2,000 educators from more than 70 different schools calling on Marten

and the Board to immediately return K-3 class sizes to 24:1. The new state funding model for education requires that districts steadily decrease class size to 24:1. By increasing K-3 class size to 27:1, not only are Marten and the Board making it harder for students to learn, they are also potentially placing \$20 million of state funds in jeopardy. For more photos from Tuesday's action, visit www.sdea.net.



Left: A sea of SDEA red greeted Board members at the Oct. 1 School Board meeting as roughly 150 educators, parents and students expressed outrage over class size increases. **Center:** SDEA members from Hage Elementary support 24:1 K-3 class size! **Right:** SDEA Vice President Lindsay Burningham presented a petition calling for a return to 24:1 in grades K-3. **Top:** SDEA members at Spreckels Elementary wore red on Oct. 1, and also organized a parent delegation to speak at the Board meeting.

Bargaining Input Sessions: Our union, our contract, our future!

The start of school is a busy time for all educators, but still the SDEA Bargaining Commission and Board of Directors met in early September to build the skills to hold powerful Bargaining Input Sessions at every school and program. Bargaining Commission members will work with site reps to facilitate the sessions and to capture the data on members' collective bargaining priorities.

The Bargaining Commission members will facilitate input sessions at their own sites and

programs between now and mid-October. The Commission members will then conduct training for ARs and CRs at the Bargaining Campaign Kickoff at Fall Leadership on Oct. 19. Launching out of Fall Leadership, Commission members and ARs will facilitate Bargaining Input Sessions at more than 100 remaining worksites!

Bargaining Input Sessions are a very powerful first collective action for our bargaining campaign, and will inform SDEA's initial proposals.



La Jolla High School members gather after SDEA Bargaining Commission member and La Jolla High School chemistry teacher Howard Tenenbaum facilitated the first Bargaining Input Session of the year. Go Vikings!



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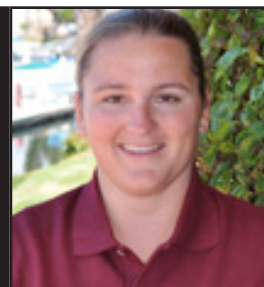
Nanette Najera



Letters in Solidarity

Bill Freeman
SDEA President

Lindsay Burningham
SDEA Vice President



We must fight to protect K-12 class sizes

“We’re waiting to see if the state pushes us over the cliff,” then-Central Elementary Principal Cindy Marten told the *New York Times* in June 2011, as state and federal budget cuts threatened to increase class sizes across the District.

Just two years later, and now as the superintendent of California’s second largest district, Marten seems to have overlooked the importance of keeping class sizes low.

San Diego Unified increased staffing in K-3 classes to 27:1 this year, despite new state law prescribing that districts move towards a per site K-3 ratio of 24:1. Last year our District was already at 24:1, making any increase in K-3 class size a violation of the new law. This could result in a loss of as much as \$20 million in state funding—harming our students by increasing the number of students in the classroom and by risking valuable funding.

At the same time, secondary schools across the District have reported that administrators are not honoring the hard cap of 36 students in academic

classes. Hoover High School, for example, has more than 70 classes violating the hard cap, with many classes where students are forced to sit on the floor due to a lack of desks.

As educators and union members, we must stand up to protect our students and our contract. We must collectively act to pressure the District into correcting class size. SDEA members attended the Oct. 1 School Board meeting and delivered a petition demanding that District return class sizes to appropriate amounts (see page one). Secondary schools are developing organizing plans to involve parents and students as they start the grievance process to return their classes below 36.

We must continue to use our collective voice and pressure the District to do the right thing and maintain our class sizes.

Bill Freeman
Bill Freeman
SDEA President

Lindsay Burningham
Lindsay Burningham
SDEA Vice President

Union Educators + Parents = Education Power

After a long day at school it can be a challenge to find the time and energy to talk to parents and knock on doors. The reality, though, is that the corporate reform agenda and laws like the “Parent Trigger” have created a real need to extend ourselves beyond the classroom and into our school communities. Corporate backed groups are gambling on the idea that our parents are uninformed and disconnected from what’s going on at their schools in the hope that those parents will buy into what groups like UP4ED and Parent Revolution are selling. These groups exist to convince parents that socioeconomics have no impact on student outcomes and that the answer to the achievement gap is to convert schools into privately operated charter schools.

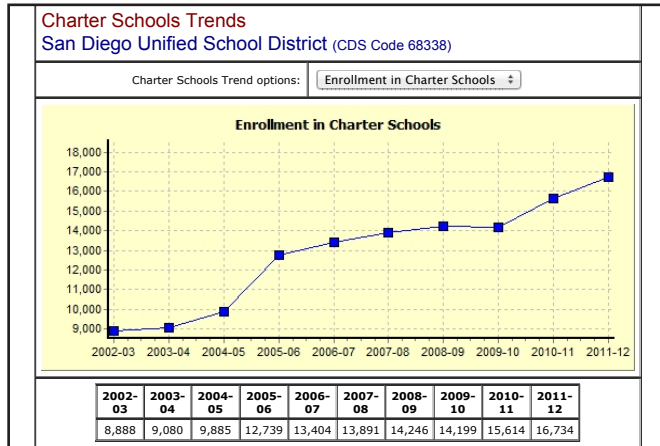
We know that when parents and educators are talking and working together, corporate reform groups cannot divide us with misinformation and false choices. That’s why SDEA members and leaders met on Saturday, Sep. 28 to build parent organizing skills and to protect our schools from the misguided and destructive “Parent Trigger” law



Lincoln High School teacher Malykke Bacon speaks at the Oct. 1 School Board meeting. In a powerful example of parent organizing, more than 60 teachers, parents and students attended the meeting to call attention to problems caused by the school’s administration.

that allows democratically governed public schools to be converted into privately run and undemocratic charter schools. SDEA members are organizing with parents to protect our schools and to build relationships that will help us fight for and win the resources we need to protect public education and to rebuild our schools after years of budget cuts.

SD charter enrollment up



In the past decade, enrollment at charter schools within the SDUSD attendance boundaries has nearly doubled, with District schools seeing a matching decline in enrollment. Unionizing charter schools is crucial to protecting our wage and working condition standards. To learn more, contact Pat Alvarez at alvarez_p@sdea.net.

Correction: SDEA member Tchaiko Kwayana's New Business Item at the NEA-RA encouraged the curricular inclusion of Africa in Antiquity, not African American history.

Please join us at our FREE seminar: 2013 Economic Outlook and Update With Jay Snow of American Funds



Thursday, November 7, 2013
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Tea Reception

OR
5:00 p.m. Evening Reception
(select one session)

SDEA Meeting Room, First Floor

Refreshments will be served!

RSVP: 619-282-8399

Seating is limited so please RSVP today.

Gary Rumsey, LUTCF Patricia Ward, LUTCF Lisa Frankovich
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VEBA is excited to announce a partnership with CaféWell! Open to all VEBA District members, CaféWell is a social networking environment designed to help you reach your health and wellness goals.

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- Contact a Health Coach online who can answer your questions, offer tips and suggestions, and give that little extra encouragement and motivation to meet your goals.
- Connect with your community by joining discussion groups on important health topics, or even create your own private groups between friends!
- Participate in health and fitness activities.
- Access health resources, including a Health Encyclopedia, symptom checker, personal health assessments, and step-by-step guides to reaching health goals such as healthy weight, exercise routine, smoking cessation, stress management, and more!
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Connect with a VEBA Health Coach

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Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm

Fridays 8am-5pm

Or email

healthcoach@vebaonline.com

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