District Doubles Down on 27:1 K-3 Class Size, Members Fight Back

On Oct. 8 the School Board passed a resolution that says they support 24:1 K-3 class size, but doesn’t actually do anything to reduce class size and protect $20 million in state funding. The resolution was a deeply inadequate response to SDEA’s action at the Oct. 1 Board meeting, where roughly 150 union members packed the room to deliver a petition signed by nearly 2,000 members. The state budget requires SDUSD to work towards a 24:1 K-3 student-to-teacher ratio. The District is moving in the opposite direction by increasing K-3 class size, which could result in a loss of $20 million in state funding!

SDEA members District-wide are keeping the pressure on, with the launch of a member and parent postcard pressure campaign at last week’s SDEA Rep. Council meeting. To get involved, contact your site Association Representative. Postcards should be returned to School Board members no later than Nov. 1.

More details and a Flickr photo gallery of the Oct. 1 Board are available HERE.

Open Enrollment

The SDUSD annual open enrollment for the 2014 benefits plan year will be held Oct. 14-Nov. 15. During this period, eligible employees may enroll for medical/dental/vision/FSA coverage, change plans, and/or add eligible dependents. For the FSA program only, eligible employees may continue to enroll through Nov. 29. If you decide not to change medical/dental or vision plans, no action is required. This does not include Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA). Enrollment in Flexible Spending Accounts is for one year only. All Open Enrollment changes will become effective Jan. 1, 2014.

If additional information is needed, please contact Employee Benefits Department located in Room 1150A at the Eugene Brucker Education Center. The main telephone number is 619-725-8130.

Retiring This Year? You Can Make Up Furlough Days.

Article 34: Furlough Days provides SDEA members who plan to retire in 2013-14 the option of working additional days during the year to offset the impact of the furlough days. For CALSTRS purposes, payments of days worked will be made to the employee’s Defined Supplement Account. Contact Krista Conn at SDUSD human resources if you are retiring and interested in working the additional days.
More for Would-Be Retirees: Joint SDEA-Retired/SDUSD Health Benefits Seminar

If you are contemplating retirement at the end of the 2013-14 school years, you are cordially invited to attend the first ever Joint SDEA-Retired/SDUSD Health Benefits Seminar for retirees on Oct. 30 at the Eugene Brucker Education Center auditorium. A session on Medicare 101 begins at 2 p.m. and the rest of the health care plan presentations begin at 2:30 p.m. If necessary, perhaps you can arrange with your principal for early release to attend the seminar. Please RSVP by Oct. 23 to Joan Robinson at joanrob@ephemeron.org or 619-296-1603.

Mayoral Candidate Forum on Education

SDEA members are encouraged to attend a mayoral forum on education at Roosevelt Middle School (3366 Park Blvd.). The forum is jointly sponsored by SDEA, the Cesar Chavez Service Clubs, and the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, and Educate for the Future, and the San Diego-Imperial Labor Council.

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More than 1,000 people have “liked” the SDEA Facebook! Join in HERE for photos and info about SDEA members in action, as well as local, state and national updates about current issues in public education and organized labor.