Twin Rivers Teachers Say No!!!!!!!!!!

Contract Does Not Pass
With 80% of our members participating in the vote on Thursday night December 4 around 7:45 PM it became official. The Twin Rivers United Educators voted down the contract 780 No and 539 Yes. Everything goes back to the negotiating table and the Side Letter stays. If you want to review the side letter again it is on the TRUE website www.trueassociation.org click on Contract.

What is our next step?
A Monkey Survey will soon be set up for all members to take online regarding the contract. You will be receiving directions and a password on how to use the survey. TRUE must have your email address in order for you to receive the survey. Please update your information.

Gearing Up For The Next Election
There are two open seats on the TRUE Executive Board one for High School Vice President and one for a Specialty Director-at-Large. Ballots have already gone out to schools so, contact your site representative and please take the time to vote. The turnaround time for this election is very short. Ballots are due to the TRUE office by Thursday December 11, 2008. Ballots will be verified December 11 and counted on December 12. Results will be posted on the TRUE website on Monday December 15.

Help Us Build
This newsletter is under construction. The titles listed below are a few articles that will be featured regularly in each issue. We are asking for the help of our members to make these articles come to life. So please start those fingers moving and submit articles to us at trueassociation.org

Voice Mail: Calling all members! We want to hear your voice. Send your questions to our website; we will answer as many as space will allow in each issue of TRUE News. So, start those questions coming!

Meet TRUE Teachers: This section will be reserved to feature teachers throughout the district. We are asking for teachers to write up a bio about yourself, the grade you teach, your school, your educational background, hobbies, likes and travels etc. Send a photo if you have one.

What’s Happening in Our Schools? When events or something special happens at your school, a play, a new teacher training, raising test scores anything positive. Write it up and e-mail it to us to true.office@yahoo.com so we can put it into the newsletter. Submit a photo if you can.
President’s Message

Since Negotiations ended the economy has taken another turn for the worse. At the December 1st TRUSD Board meeting Rob Ball stated that the District would have to adjust this year’s budget by another $9.2 million. We are headed for lean times in education.

On a happier note, I would like to thank all who made our first General Membership Meeting very enjoyable. The students from Grant and Rio Linda High Schools were the highlight of the evening, the food wasn’t bad either. We were able to donate the leftover food to a local church and to the local Hmong community. They were both very appreciative.

We urgently need new members for our Negotiations Team; please turn to page 4 for details.

Stay Informed!

Visit our website: www.trueassociation.org

What’s Happening in Our Schools

Smythe Academy received the Nell Soto Teacher Home Visiting Grant in the Spring of 2007. The grant pays teachers a stipend to make positive home visits to their students’ homes. The purpose of these visits is to connect parents to the school in a positive way as well as giving the teacher a better understanding of their students. The teachers who volunteer to participate in this program receive training on how to conduct a home visit before they are sent out into the community. Overall since last spring over 250 home visits have been made.

The teachers have reported that after the visits they have noticed less chronic behavior problems and more parent initiated contact. Students who have yet to receive a visit are asking teachers when they will come to visit their homes.
Money Matters

New CTA Endorsed 403(b) Third Party Administrator

The Internal Revenue Service has put into place new regulations pertaining to 403(b) plans that will substantially change the manner in which school districts offer these plans to school employees. The goal of the new regulations is to bring 403(b) plans into much closer alignment with other voluntary retirement savings plans such as 401(k) and 457 plans. These rules represented the first significant changes to the 403(b) regulations since 1964.

The result of the new regulations is to hold school districts accountable for the administration and compliance of 403(b) plans. The IRS conducted audits of school districts and became concerned about the lack of compliance by employers. Even if an employer was serious about tax compliance, they often did not know all of the plans an employee may have had, and had little way of tracking this information. This led to the beginning of a new compliance program for school employers. The effective date for the new regulations is January 1, 2009 for most plans.

Compliance is a serious business now. Failure on the part of the employer and in some cases, the provider, can cause a plan or individual account to be disqualified which could mean taxation to the participant.

Reminder---We need to contact all of our members from time to time by phone, e-mail or U. S. Mail, but we cannot reach you without current information. E-mail your updated information to: true.office@yahoo.com.

How Many Sick Days Do I Have?

By Ann Murray

The Employment Contract that teachers recently received in the mail did not include sick days. The district is changing how we will get this information. Sick days will no longer be printed on the Employment Contract. In the near future they will be printed on your check each month. The district is presently migrating the computer systems that will send this information to SCOE. The full migration is expected to take place next year. Until then to find out about sick days you can contact your assigned payroll person listed below.

District Office: (916) 566-1600

For Del Paso Area:
Sandy Heitz (Ext. 1375)
Phyllis McGarvey (Ext. 1327)

For Grant Area:
A-G—Kathi Johnston (Ext. 1492)
H-O—Linda Makley (Ext. 1489)
P-Z—Janis Berry (Ext. 1493)

For Rio Linda Area:
Miriam Debevec (Ext. 1323)
Jennifer Macias-Sweeny (Ext. 1328)

For North Sacramento Area:
Celeste Bradford (Ext. 1488)
Donna Johnson (Ext. 1496)
Education Issues in the News

The state of California is running out of money again. This time it may affect the ability of the state to supplement school meal programs. More struggling families are taking part in the free or reduced lunch program. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell is asking the state for $31 million so the school districts will not have to bear any additional burdens. This request is most likely to be denied because the lawmakers are struggling with an $11.2 billion budget deficit in the current fiscal year and it is expected to grow to $28 billion in the next year and a half if they do not take some serious action soon. Any solutions to the shortfall will most likely hit schools, since education accounts for nearly half of the state’s budget.

(Information taken from the Los Angeles Times)

New Negotiations Team

It is back to the drawing table for a new Negotiations Team. The TRUE Executive Board will be accepting names of members that would like to volunteer to fill the vacant positions. Please send us your name with a short resume of your qualifications, such as sitting on a Community Board, experience as negotiator with another district, past training from CTA in negotiating and or school finances, etc. Please send your resume to: true.office@yahoo.com or drop it off at our office.

Get involved, your Association needs you!!!

Calendar of Events

12/1- TRUSD School Board Meeting 7:00 pm
12/7, 14, 21, 28- Free Sundays @ Crocker Art Museum 10 am –1 pm
12/9- Noralto School Family Night 5-6:30 pm
12/9- TRUE Executive Board Meeting 4:00 pm
12/10- TRUE Site Delegate Assembly 4:00 pm
12/13- District Spelling Bee @ Castori Elementary School 9:00 am
12/16- TRUSD School Board Meeting 7:00 pm-at Vineland
12/18- Foothill Farms Junior High Winter Celebration of the Arts & Music 6pm
12/20- Highlands Academy Alumni Party
12/22- Free Admission to Maidu Indian Museum (shows start at 10 am, 11:30 am and 1 pm)
12/22-1/2/09- Winter Recess
12/24- Free Admission at Fairytale Town
12/24- Free Admission at the Sacramento Zoo (Pajama Party)
12/28- Free Admission at the Explorit Science Center
1/6- TRUSD School Board Meeting 7:00 pm-at Vineland
1/13- TRUE Executive Board Meeting 4:00 pm
1/19- No School-Martin Luther King Holiday
1/27- Noralto Family School Dance 5:00-6:30 pm