



**Burbank Teachers Association**  
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[www.burbankteachers.org](http://www.burbankteachers.org)



The BTA negotiating team comprised of BTA's Executive Director, Nathan Banditelli, Sue Conway (Luther), Les Cohen (JBHS), Brenda Kosbab (BHS), Heidi Lavitt (Stevenson), and Laura Mixon (McKinley) met with the BUSD team, comprised of Sarah Niemann (Human Resources Director), David Jaynes (Asst. Supt. Business Services), John Paramo (Director of Secondary Ed.), Laura Flosi (Edison), and April Evans-Weaver (Jordan).

### Hot Topics

- BTA asked for information regarding the modernization of Disney. At the beginning of the process, the district told Disney they would be adding a second story to a building. This would cost \$10 million dollars.
  - At this point the District has \$6.4 million for modernization (Bond money) for Disney. Therefore, the 2-story addition will not happen.
  - The district and Disney will have a stake holders meeting on Wednesday, 12/5, and a second town hall has been scheduled to discuss modernization plans.
- BTA brought up the placement of students with behavior issues, particularly at the elementary level.
  - Legal restrictions dictate a teacher's and the district's response to a violent outburst in the classroom.
  - After an incident the site should be having an intervention meeting to assess the student.
  - The district is looking at different models for intervention. According to the district, the consensus at the elementary schools was to have more behavioral interventionists to help the sites.
  - The district will continue to discuss the problem with principals. Principals will update their staff on the legal issues and procedures required to deal with students with behavior issues.
- BTA brought up allowing second through fifth grade teachers to leave their students with credentialed music teachers so they could have 30 minutes of planning time once a week.
  - The district said that the classroom teacher is responsible for grading and therefore must be in the classroom. BTA countered that the grade was based on effort and did not require staying in the class the entire time.
  - The district said the teacher to student ratio for music teachers was 850 to 1 making it difficult for the music teachers to be responsible for grading and that this would cut into instructional time. BTA asked the district to look into the elementary PE teachers' student to teacher ratio as a comparison.
  - The District does not allow the music teacher to help with songs and music outside of their curriculum. The district will look into who is directing principals to deny this request.
- BTA asked about the necessity of 4 report cards per semester at the secondary level.
  - The district said that high schools look at 5-week grades for eligibility for sports and other activities.
  - BTA and the district discussed using report cards for everyone at the 10- and 20-week grading periods and using report cards at the 5 and 15 weeks for students who have D's and F's.
  - BTA and the district discussed using the online grades in lieu of report cards. The district claimed that several teachers are not using the online grade program so the report cards are necessary.
  - The issue will be discussed at future meetings. BTA believes most teachers are using the online grades and continues to question the need for 4 report cards a semester.

## **Budget Update**

- There was no detailed budget update. The district will present the First Interim Budget in January. BTA and the district will discuss the budget at the next negotiation meeting.
- The district continues to explore ways to use the supplemental grant fund for items now budgeted in the base grant (unrestricted funds). This could help to free up more unrestricted money in the budget.
- The District presented the Fiscal Report from School Services.
  - The Legislative Analyst's Office expects an increase of \$2.4 Billion from the 2018-19 estimates. This means the state should have \$2.8 billion for new spending in 2019-20. This would be around a 3.1% cost of living adjustment for 2019-20.
- Current enrollment in Burbank is around the same as last year.

## **Open Articles**

- Wages and Health and Welfare are open every year.
- The district and BTA can open 2 articles this year.
- The entire contract will be negotiated in 2019 – 2020.
- The district will not open any article.
- BTA will open Article 9, hours.
  - BTA would like to discuss.
    - the 5 preschool days.
    - instructional minutes and consistent bell schedules at the elementary level.
    - teacher planning time on the early release days at the secondary level.

## **Next Negotiations Meeting**

- Wednesday, January 16