



PRESS RELEASE

September 12, 2018

Evergreen Teachers Association

Engaging Students, Involving Families, & Empowering Teachers since 1963

1333 Piedmont Rd., Suite 106, San Jose, 95132

www.etanews.org

Contact: ETA President Brian Wheatley at 408-833-3476 (cell).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***School Continues in Evergreen District and Still No Contract --
Educators to Rally Thursday Before School Board Meeting
Evergreen Teachers Determined to ‘Walk Out, If Necessary’***

SAN JOSE – Frustrated Evergreen School District teachers will gather for a rally prior to the school board meeting Thursday, Sept. 13, to protest the district’s continued lack of respect and refusal to protect students and invest in educators in contract talks that have dragged on for more than a year now.

Teachers originally asked for a modest 0.5% salary increase while trying to protect lower class size in TK – 3 grades. “We’re angered by management’s inability to see the big picture and do what’s best for the district,” said Brian Wheatley, president of the 500+ member Evergreen Teachers Association (ETA). “We’re now worried the parcel tax on the Nov. 6 ballot could be at risk if teachers continue to be disrespected.”

In an effort to emphasize how appalled they are by the administration’s continued paralysis and failure to move the district in a positive direction, Evergreen teachers took a strike authorization vote in June with 96% voting “Yes!” Next up is a “Do Whatever It Takes” petition:

Dear Evergreen Elementary School District Board of Trustees:

We, the undersigned members of Evergreen Teachers Association, will do whatever it takes, including being ready to strike at our school sites, to protect class size in TK-3 grade & weekly art programs in 4-6 grades, and to ensure we keep good educators in our District so that students have the best opportunity to succeed. We strongly urge you to direct your District bargaining team to accept ETA’s bargaining proposal to improve salary, health care and be respected for the important work we do!

Our students, teachers and the entire community deserves it!

A factfinding hearing with a neutral, state-appointed party is set for Sept. 17-18. If no settlement is reached through that hearing process, management will be legally allowed to impose their “last, best and final” offer, and ETA leaders will be able to call a strike, if necessary.

Wheatley said Evergreen teachers continue to be inspired by what the #RedForEd movement has recently accomplished around the country. “We are fighting for our students, our community and ourselves,” Wheatley said. “The administration is refusing to lead, so teachers are stepping forward and taking control of the situation because students are at the center of everything we do. We want to settle and get back to what we do best – teaching. But we will walk out if necessary and strike, for our students’ future!”

--WHAT: Rally by educators before the school board meeting in San Jose’s Evergreen School District.

--WHEN and WHERE: The rally begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13. ETA President Brian Wheatley will be available for interviews at the district office, 3188 Quimby Rd, San Jose, 95148.

Evergreen Teachers Association is affiliated with the California Teachers Association with 325,000 members and the National Education Association with 3.2 million members.