



PRESS RELEASE

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Evergreen Teachers Association

Engaging Students, Involving Families, & Empowering Teachers since 1963

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bargaining Impasse Continues – San Jose Teachers Determined to ‘March for Evergreen’s Future’ in Thursday Protest & Rally

SAN JOSE – Frustrated Evergreen School District teachers will gather, march and rally Thursday to protest the district’s lack of respect and refusal to invest in educators in contract talks that have dragged on for nearly one year. They will be joined by local teacher unions from throughout Santa Clara County as well as other organizations such as WPUSA, SEIU, SBLC, CFJ, and Stand SJ.

“Teachers feel management is more focused on accepting awards and intimidating teachers than working together to reach a fair contract settlement,” said ETA President Brian Wheatley. “We’re also angered by the tone and inflammatory language used in the district’s latest one-sided negotiations email to parents. The only way we can respond to this unfair attack is to make a stand in public!”

He noted these lowlights of the district’s draconian bargaining proposal:

- 0% salary increase for educators.
- Increase TK-3rd grade class sizes from 24:1 to 27:1 ratio.
- Health benefits retroactively capped at 2012-2013 level.
- Upper grade art classes reduced.

In an effort to emphasize how disheartened they are by the district’s bad behavior, Evergreen teachers continue to “work to rule” which means not doing extra tasks that are not required by contract, but routinely done by educators on a daily basis, for free. Evergreen teachers have not taken a formal strike vote yet and are awaiting a hearing with a state-appointed factfinder to possibly resolve the showdown.

Wheatley said Evergreen teachers are inspired by what educators in W. Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Arizona have recently accomplished for students and communities. “The district routinely projects budgetary doom and gloom but reported a positive certification to the state. We are only asking for 0.5 % to cover out-of-pocket healthcare costs and are tired of the disrespect. We want to settle and get back to what we do best, but we will continue to stand up for our students and ourselves!”

--**WHAT:** A protest followed by a march and rally before entering the school board meeting.

--**WHEN and WHERE:** The protest begins @ 5 PM Thursday, May 10, at Silver Creek Rd. & Capitol Expressway, San Jose. Teachers will then march to Montgomery Elementary (2010 Daniel Maloney Dr., San Jose, 95121) and hold a rally before the school board meeting there. MEDIA NOTE: ETA President Brian Wheatley will be taking part there and available for interviews.