

Stand Up for Public Education!

Support the April 29th OEA Strike



“It is not in the best interest of the students and the community for the OEA teaching staff to slide further behind its peers in the County and statewide ... There comes a point beyond which we cannot expect workers to go.”

- Christopher Burdick, state-appointed Factfinding Panel chair

- On April 21 the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) School Board halted contract negotiations with the Oakland Education Association (OEA) and imposed terms that will harm the entire Oakland community.
- OUSD's terms are bad for Oakland schools. OEA's demands will help create success in Oakland schools.
- Your support for our one-day strike will help us defend and improve Oakland Public Schools.

This is a question of priorities! Tell OUSD's state trustee, superintendent, and school board to get their priorities straight.

What Is at Stake in Oakland Public Schools?

In a word, everything. OUSD's imposed contract means bigger classes, more teacher turnover, unmanageable caseloads for counselors, nurses and social workers, and destruction of the Adult Education program. It means more instability for Oakland Public Schools – and for the entire community.

- **Realistic Class Size!**
OUSD imposed maximum class sizes as high as 27 students in kindergarten and 30 in 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade classes. OEA calls for no more than 20 students in grades K-3 in struggling schools (and the neutral factfinder agrees) and a maximum of 24 per class in all other schools.
- **Reasonable Caseloads!**
OUSD insists that one counselor can serve 700 students. But last year, some Oakland seniors weren't warned they lacked enough classes to graduate. Caseloads for special education teachers, nurses and social workers are just as unreasonable. OEA demands that all of these ratios be reduced.
- **Crucial Adult Education!**
OUSD's imposed terms will destructively cut, and possibly even eliminate the 25,000-student adult education program. This program lets thousands of immigrants, single mothers, and high school dropouts gain skills they need to improve their lives. OEA calls for maintaining the full adult education program.
- **Equitable Compensation!**
OUSD acknowledges that OEA members are the lowest-paid teachers in Alameda County. They admit that low teacher pay is one of the big reasons so many teachers leave Oakland. They admit we deserve a raise and know we need one, but won't give us one.

Where Is the Money?

OUSD says it just doesn't have money. But for years this district (and the state administration that was imposed in 2003) has wasted money on out-of-control administrative bureaucracy and on extravagant handouts to consultants.

- **Outside Contracts**
OUSD spends more than \$80 million on profit-driven outside contractors, nearly twice as high a percentage of its budget as the average California district spends on outside contracts.
- **Bloated Administration**
OUSD spends twice as high a percentage of its budget on site administrators as the average California district.
- **Ignoring State Requirements**
Because of its priority on private contractors and high-paid administrators, OUSD spends \$35 million less on salaries for classroom teachers and instructional aides than is required by state education code. The Alameda County Office of Education sent a letter warning OUSD it will be breaking the law if this isn't remedied.
- **Breaking Parcel Tax Promise to Voters**
OUSD gets \$20 million/year from Measure E/G parcel taxes. Oakland voters approved this tax with the primary purposes of retaining and recruiting teachers and reducing class size. But OUSD has misspent millions of dollars of this money on consultants and bureaucracy.

Finally, Corporate Oakland needs to provide funding to OUSD – this time with no strings attached. (Four years ago, private sources gave OUSD \$42 million – but all of it was earmarked for administrators and outsourced contracts.) Thanks to union pressure, Kaiser recently froze its rates to the District. Wells Fargo, Clorox, Shorenstein *et al.* need to follow Kaiser's lead.

Quality Public Education is a Civil Right! JOIN US ON APRIL 29!

Contact OUSD leaders and tell them you support teachers!

School Board President Gary Yee: Gary.Yee@ousd.k12.ca.us / 510-8658

OUSD Superintendent Tony Smith: Tony.Smith@ousd.k12.ca.us / 510-879-8200

OUSD State Trustee Vince Matthews: Vincent.Matthews@ousd.k12.ca.us

Support the fight for quality public education as a civil right:

- Join picket lines at local schools or at OUSD Headquarters, 1025 Second Avenue
- Join the rally at Frank Ogawa Plaza, 14th Street and Broadway, April 29 at noon
- Contact OEA and tell us you want to help