



**PAJARO VALLEY  
FEDERATION OF  
TEACHERS**

AFL-CIO

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Negotiations between PVUSD and PVFT move to Fact Finding**

*Watsonville, California* – The Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers (PVFT) met with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) in mediation session yesterday, but the parties were unable to come to an agreement. They will now proceed to Fact Finding.

The district proposal made no guarantee of class size reduction, stripped elementary teachers of their right to two hours of individual preparation time per week and tacked on two hours of unpaid meetings after the work day. "In a time when district revenues are increasing due to Prop 30 and an improving economy, and with an ending fund balance at an all time high, reductions in preparation time and shortchanging our students with high class sizes is indefensible," said Francisco Rodriguez, President of PVFT. After 7 years that included scores of layoffs, class size increases, furlough days and no raises, teachers are ready for the district to improve overall working and learning conditions, restore smaller class sizes and bring salaries to the top 25% of comparable districts.

Watsonville High School teacher, Marvilyn Quiroz, sees it this way: "Instead of improving the quality of education, the district's proposals seek to squeeze more out of the very people who make education possible in the PVUSD."

PVUSD has some of the highest class sizes allowed by California Education Code. "Given the significant increase in current district financial resources coupled with the mandate of implementing the Common Core Standards, why wouldn't the district commit in writing to a specific action plan with dates for future class size reduction?" asked Valencia Kindergarten teacher Karen Richmond. "It makes neither academic nor fiscal sense."

Another issue where the district fell short was with its salary proposal. It offered teachers the same 7% already given to management and refused to agree to any additional increases for the entirety of the three-year contract. "District administration wants high caliber teachers in the classroom, but excellent teachers are leaving on a regular basis for higher paying jobs over the hill," said Aptos High teacher and Coach Reggie Roberts. "The teachers who do stay in the district make sacrifices that a lot that people don't know about. To them, this community is everything. Their pay needs to correspond with that commitment to their students and their community."

The union is proposing that the district sign a separate MOU on the 7% salary increase so that teachers can begin to catch up after years of cuts while negotiations continue on the other remaining non-salary items. "Seven percent is inadequate, but it's a start," said Rodriguez. "We

would take it as a sign the district is serious about retaining teachers if this occurred while we work on improving the offer".

The Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers represents certificated employees of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, the largest district in Santa Cruz County, which extends from Pajaro in Monterey County to Aptos in Santa Cruz County.

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