

PFF Negotiations Update

11/26/2007

Bad News: District Returns to Bad Faith Bargaining

Dear Colleagues,

I am sorry to say that after a very short period of time in which the District appeared to be bargaining in good faith, the District negotiating team lead by Vice President of Human Resources, John Tortarolo, and Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, Bonnie Dowd, has once again acted in ways that could not be defined as good faith bargaining.

At our September 27th, 2007 negotiations meeting the District finally presented a legitimate counter proposal to our April, 23, 2007 compensation proposal. At that time, the PFF called for a caucus and within the hour came back with a verbally presented counter proposal. After having our September 27th, 2007 counter proposal for over a month, the District has, once again, ignored one of our proposals and is refusing to collectively bargain and offer us a subsequent counter proposal.

In addition, the District continues to distort Palomar College's financial picture to suggest that virtually any raise given to the faculty will bankrupt the college. They have the gall to continue this rhetoric even though the following facts are clear:

1. The ending funding balance for 2006-2007 was in excess of \$12 million dollars as has been typical for the last 5 years.
2. We have approximately \$30 million more in our budget but approximately 11 fewer full-time faculty members than 5 years ago.
3. We have close to \$700 million in bond money.
4. Bonnie Dowd keeps skimming approximately \$2 million dollars out of the general fund (the fund that would support our raises) to pad the \$14 million dollar (and growing) Fund 69 account: unfunded retirement liability (a liability that may never show its face).
5. Both Bonnie Dowd and John Tortarolo continue to increase spending in each of their departments at the same time that they are pleading abject poverty for the college in general.
6. The inflated administration salaries and budgets continue to grow relative to instruction further threatening the state's 50% rule of spending on in-class instruction.

It is tough to negotiate via collective bargaining when the District refuses to negotiate in good faith.

The PFF will use every means at its disposal to fight Bob Deegan's anti-faculty/anti-classified administration. Our position is perhaps summed up best by Tom Petty:

“I may be standing at the gates of hell, but I won’t back down!”

Respectfully submitted,

Roger N. Morrissette

PFF Chief Negotiator