



East Whittier Education Association

Budget Bites 2022-2023, Issue 4

This will be the shortest message to date because at this point there isn't much else to say.

Since August, eWEa has been asking you to support our bargaining team by attending school board meetings, either in person or via livestream, and you have responded. First of all, a **huge** 'thank you' to every one of you who has taken time out of your personal schedule to be there. Please know that your presence has made an impact. When elected officials know there is an audience, that the audience is knowledgeable, and that the audience is listening, those officials are required to sit up and take notice. However, while the school board is all too aware of our presence, our current efforts have not been enough.

The District's offer for a salary increase is less than what other Whittier-area districts are offering, and definitely short of the 13.7% provided by the state. Some of you have reached out to ask why we even have to ask for this increase in the first place, let alone fight for it. In California, collective bargaining is the legally mandated method for determining contract agreements between public school districts and their certificated employees. This is how we are able to have a voice in our working conditions and salary. That being said, the district could have come to the table offering the full amount and we would agree to it. But that hasn't happened, so here we are.

In the past, our superintendent and school board have made a point of stating that East Whittier is the top district in the area. How is it that we are not valued *at least* as highly as employees in those other districts? Logic would dictate that if we are the top local elementary district, then we should be compensated at the top level.

Clearly, it is time to step-up our efforts. **The next school Board meeting is next Monday, October 24th. We need you in person at that meeting.** Come to sit and applaud your colleagues who choose to speak on behalf of the hard-working employees of EWCS. If you are comfortable doing so, come to speak to the Board. Come early to enjoy pre-meeting pizza, provided by eWEa, and if you have permanent status, grab a sign and join us for some informational picketing! For those of you old enough to remember, the picketing in front of the district office will let the community know how we feel about being undervalued. **If you want to help make signs, come to Parnell Park this Thursday (10/20), from 4:00-5:00 PM. We will have all the materials.**

See you Monday!

Kelly Sunada, eWEa Organizing Chair

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