



Oak Grove Educators Association

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A message from OGEA Acting President, Dominic Rizzi,

Welcome back and a special welcome to our new OGEA members!

I am Dominic Rizzi, your acting OGEA Union President. Your elected president, Lynne Martinez, is taking a leave this year and I am proud to serve as your Acting President. I hope everyone had a great summer and is eager to get back into their classrooms to turn that summer Pinterest board into reality. Congratulations to those teachers and educators being recognized today with Vision Awards and other acknowledgements! Look out for our upcoming newsletter, *The Appleseed*, where we will celebrate your life changes over the summer including marriages, newborns, house purchases, and much more!

While you were preparing for the new school year, out on vacation, or at home with your cat, your OGEA bargaining team was working hard with the Oak Grove School District to come to some tentative agreements for our new contract. Unfortunately, their use of summer did not finalize agreements with the district and we are still without a working contract for the start of the school year.

We need you, our members, to stand united and demand that we reach our fair contract now. It is really time for us to settle this contract and we need you to stand in solidarity behind our bargaining team. Wear your black unity shirts on bargaining days and stay in communication with your site reps. Visit our social media websites frequently for ways you can support the union as we try and finalize our agreements with the district.

That all being said, this is a big year for everyone when considering the political climate, school board election, a parcel tax on the ballot and a handful of propositions that will affect public education. I empower you now and call on you as your union leader to stand united in support of each other, your teaching partners, and most importantly – our students. Together we can make a difference in our community and beyond. Stay in touch and talk with your site reps often, let's do this!

The OGEA Executive Board is asking you to consider the following points:

- Comparable Districts near OGSD have received teacher raises despite declining enrollment.
- OGSD offered one time money as a raise and want to link on-going money to a parcel tax.
- OGEA doesn't feel your paycheck should be subject to the risk of a parcel tax.
- STRS will increase by 1% this year and will affect a decrease in your take home pay.
- Cost of South Bay Housing is skyrocketing.

We believe it is time for Superintendent Jose Manzo and the OGSD School Board to address these issues at the bargaining table. Your OGEA bargaining team has met through summer, most recently on August 9th and is expected to be at the table again in September. We need to stand united as educators. We need and deserve a fair contract now!

FAIR

CONTRACT,

NOW!