



August 18, 2011

Dear UTM Member,

Today, UTM met with MCSD and their labor attorney, Bob Norton from Miami for impact bargaining after the district imposed seven (7) furlough days and eliminated our 1.5% salary increase for the 2011-2012 school year.

UTM requested additional information in order to study the need for the imposed seven (7) furlough days and the need for the elimination of the 1.5% salary increase. The district's attorney responded that UTM has everything that the district is willing to provide. What the district provided were separate financial documents for each school and department, refusing to identify where cuts have already been made. The documents provided were incomplete with several school sites not included. The district refused to verify the budget target to prove the necessity for additional furlough days and the elimination of the 1.5% salary increase.

UTM then proposed in writing their willingness to accept three (3) furlough days, not the seven (7) the district has imposed. The district's attorney replied, "No," to our proposal. UTM asked for a response in writing and ended the meeting.

UTM is reviewing the MCSD preliminary budget that was provided to them today and has requested the missing documents. When that work is complete we will return to the bargaining table to work out a reasonable solution to the district's budget shortfall. In the meantime we will continue to consult with the Florida Education Association Legal Department.

What can you do?

You can continue to contact our school board members and voice your concerns.