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LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 241-7000 | Fax: (213) 241-8442

AUSTIN BEUTNER
Superintendent

January 5, 2019

Dear Families,

I would like to take this opportunity share with you the latest developments on contract negotiations with United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA). Los Angeles Unified wants to keep kids safe and learning in school. We are working to find a solution to the contract issues and have offered UTLA teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians the following:

- A 6 percent raise
- No additional work or professional development required to receive the raise
- Back pay for 2017-2018
- Additional pay for teachers who take courses in areas that support students
- No changes to health benefits for current employees
- \$30 million of additional funding to reduce class size and hire more counselors, nurses and librarians

In November, the state of California appointed an independent, neutral Fact Finder to help find a solution. His recent report recommended the 6% raise. In addition, UTLA's own appointee on the Fact Finding Panel concurred with the 6% raise. The Report from the independent Fact Finder also provides a framework to help settle most of the other contract issues.

This is why we are disappointed that UTLA leadership has decided to strike on January 10 rather than continue discussions with Los Angeles Unified to agree on a new contract. Only UTLA leadership can call a strike, which would harm our students, families and communities most in need. We encourage you to call UTLA to ask them to continue bargaining and tell them you don't want a strike. UTLA can be reached at (213) 487-5560.

We do not want a strike and we know that many of our educators don't want one either. Los Angeles Unified is committed to providing our teachers with as much support as we can, given Los Angeles Unified's resources. The contract demands from UTLA leadership, which are basically unchanged since April 2017, would bankrupt Los Angeles Unified and lead to a state takeover.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, two independent commissions established by prior Superintendents Cortines and King and now the independent, state appointed, Fact Finder have all warned Los Angeles Unified that it does not have sufficient financial resources to comply with all of UTLA leadership's demands.

Los Angeles Unified is doing everything possible to minimize the impact of these contract negotiations and a potential strike on our students, families and the communities we serve. We encourage you to visit our website at www.lausd.net where you will find our [Family Resource Guide](#) which provides information on how you and your children can prepare in the event of a strike. If you want to know more about the contract negotiations, please visit the [Labor Updates](#) section on our website.

Our goal is to continue working to provide the best possible education for all our students.

Sincerely,


Austin Beutner
Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified