

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**May 8, 2018**

## **Oakland Education Association**

272 E. 12th Street  
Oakland, CA 94606  
(510) 763-4020

**Contact:** Trish Gorham, Oakland Education Association President: 510-332-9103

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **Oakland Educators to Hold 4:30 p.m. Rally Wednesday, Then March to School Board Meeting to Demand a Fair Contract**

***Oakland Teachers have been working without a contract since July 1, 2017. Wednesday's rally follows 60% of OUSD schools participating in a Work to Contract Week March 26 - March 29 and a march of 800+ on the district Headquarters on April 24. These actions are taken to demand that OUSD put real proposals on the table in order to settle the contract with the members of the Oakland Education Association.***

**OAKLAND** – Oakland educators will hold a rally and march to the school board meeting on Wednesday – California's Day of the Teacher – to demand a fair contract settlement. Teachers have been working without a contract since July 1, 2017.

The district has not demonstrated that settling the contract is a priority.

OUSD is losing educators to surrounding districts every year. Uncertainty about a contract will increase those numbers. Students deserve more support than overcrowded classrooms and high caseloads can provide. With increased revenue from the state of at least \$20 million in ongoing money and \$8 million in one-time money, it's time for OUSD to bring real proposals to the table in order to settle this contract.

OUSD is offering 0% on the salary schedule, no reduction in class size, and no additional planning time. They refuse to consider items that are no cost to the district but would improve the teaching and learning conditions of students.

Trish Gorham, President, Oakland Education Association, "OEA members put students at the center of everything we do, every day. When we witness money being misspent on high administrative salaries and budget mistakes paid for with cuts to workers and students we feel justified in questioning OUSD budget priorities."

Bethany Meyer, Special Education Teacher, Piedmont Avenue Elementary: “We need smaller class sizes and caseloads, so we can give students more 1:1 attention. We need more resources for our most vulnerable students, and we need fair pay in order to attract and retain great teachers for our kids. OUSD must re-prioritize the budget in order to give our students the schools they deserve.”

Deirdre Snyder, Spanish Teacher, Oakland Technical High School: “Democracy depends on our public education system. We need to fund our children’s future.”

**---WHAT:** Rally and march by Oakland Education Association teachers to demand a fair contract settlement from the Oakland Unified School District.

**---WHEN and WHERE:** The rally is at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, at Dewey High School, 1111 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Oakland. Educators and supporters will then march to the 5:30 p.m. school board meeting at nearby La Escuelita Elementary, 1050 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Oakland.

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***The Oakland Education Association is affiliated with the 325,000-member California Teachers Association and the 3 million-member National Education Association.***