

## Newark Teachers Association/CTA

February 12, 2010

32980 Alvarado-Niles Road, Suite 812  
Union City, CA 94587  
(510) 441-1601

**Contact:** Newark Teachers Association President Chris Baugh at 510-219-1231 (cell).

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## *Newark Teachers Sacrifice to Help Struggling District --- Accept Up to 16 Unpaid Days Over Two Years Newly Ratified Contract Could Mean Up to 8.6% Pay Cut*

**NEWARK** – After months of difficult bargaining exacerbated by state budget cuts to education, educators and the school board in Newark have approved a new contract that includes salary sacrifices and larger class sizes to help the financially strapped Newark Unified School District in Alameda County.

The terms of the salary cuts are flexible, in case the district's financial picture improves, but it was facing having to cut \$5 million. Teachers agreed to allow the district to impose up to five furlough days for the next school year, which starts July 1, and up to another five unpaid days for the 2011-12 school year. In addition, the district has taken the three paid training days off the salary schedule. If offered, these training days will be voluntary. If money is available, these days will be paid at an hourly rate. In the worst-case scenario, educators would take a pay cut of 8.6 percent if they have to take all 16 unpaid days, said Chris Baugh, president of the 344-member Newark Teachers Association.

“Both sides agreed that it is a difficult time for public education due to state cuts and that Newark reductions will be difficult for all involved, especially the students,” Baugh said. “Negative impacts were kept to a minimum by suspending some of the current language in the agreement and implementing temporary changes over the remainder of this school year and through the next two years. By the fall of 2012, it is hoped that we can return to a better educational environment for our students with lower class sizes and more educational opportunities for those involved.”

For this year, students in grades K-3 have seen their class size jump from 20 to as high as 27. This limit may go higher and will lead to an overall reduction in more teachers. At the ninth grade level, those classes that also had reduced class sizes to 20 students have expanded to as much as 33. Class sizes may go as high as 33 in grades 4-6 starting next school year and more increases may also occur at the junior high and high school levels. The total number of students that secondary teachers will teach in the course of a day will also go up.

Due to state cuts, Newark elementary students in grades 1-6 have seen a reduction in the time spent with PE and science resource specialists. Last year, students had the opportunity to participate in three 40-minute specialist-taught classes each week. For this year and the next two years they will be limited to only two specialist-led lessons per week. One result of this is that teachers will be losing valuable classroom planning time.

###

*The Newark Teachers Association is affiliated with the 325,000-member California Teachers Association and the 3.2 million-member National Education Association.*