



RECAP OF MARCH 17, 2015 ROUNDTABLE WITH LMUTA

VOLUME's roundtable with Lucia Mar Unified Teachers Association drew newcomers to VOLUME! In addition to our guest speakers, Donna Kandel and Bill Ridge from LMUTA, school board members, Chad Robertson and Vicki Meagher were in attendance. Parents present spoke passionately and were united in their support for the teachers receiving improved compensation.

Parents expressed concerns about the rules governing district and union communications, the need to control rumors, the ability to have the teachers point of view heard when the district sends out updates, and to help spread the word about the potential impending strike if a suitable agreement can't be reached.

LMUTA shared the events leading up to the current impasse and their disappointment that the early negotiations were not successful. LMUTA is still hopeful an agreement can be reached and is resolute that the district's 2% offer would not be ratified by the teachers. Next mediation session is scheduled for March 25. If no agreement is reached, LMUTA would have the legal right to strike.

VOLUME pointed out that it is encouraging to see significant new revenues in the updated budget projections presented to the school board by district staff on 3/10/15. Parents inquired about the district's ability to find ways to identify revenue streams to make increased teacher salaries happen, and expressed the desire to be involved in deciding district priorities for the budget.

Parents asked how they can help show their support for the teachers and were told by LMUTA and the board members that they need to be engaged in the process, be organized, and communicate their views to board members and district staff.