



Speech to the Board

23 April 2014

By Amanda Fanning

Good evening, members of the board. As educators, we work diligently to create a positive learning environment for our students. It is common knowledge that teachers stay late grading papers, making copies, working with our colleagues on comprehensive units, and creating lesson plans. We donate our time, understanding that the responsibilities of our jobs do not fit within the confines of 7am to 3pm.

Yet, with every year, more responsibilities are added to our plate. Between increasing class sizes—3rd highest average in the county—smaller budgets, common core curriculum, and significantly less classified support, we all have shared the burden of providing a quality education to our students. Teachers, counselors, and support staff have worked persistently to minimize the negative impact reduced funding has on our students.

Happily, with our financial picture improving, we are buoyed by the district's efforts to redirect its financial resources toward the people and programs that have borne the brunt of cuts for the past several years.

For years, Carlsbad has faced cut after cut, each one deeper and more painful than the last. Now, however, is the time for us to become whole again. *Now* is the time for Carlsbad to work together to create a district which values its teachers, repairs the cuts made at the classroom and site levels, and works together to insure the best, safest education possible for our students.

Our bargaining team has worked side-by-side with the district, and we believe we are close to a resolution—a resolution that will prove to all educators that they are truly considered representatives of a “world class district” and will be treated with the professional courtesy they deserve. We have appreciated the open, honest, and respectful working relationship with the district bargaining team. It has been a refreshing approach to collaborate on what's best for students, teachers, and schools.

Looking toward the end of the year, the Carlsbad Unified Teachers Association has a great deal to be excited about. The board has publicly acknowledged its commitment to lowering class sizes, and our teachers are waiting with bated breath for this change. Lower class sizes will enable teachers to work more closely with individual students and meet their needs more effectively. Additionally, the district office is currently working on implementing a Summer Institute which will allow collaborative opportunities to develop Common Core curricular units. With this in mind, we eagerly anticipate a new beginning for Carlsbad Unified in 2014.

Thank you.