

Resolution in support of UTLA and OEA contract campaigns

Whereas United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) and the Oakland Education Association (OEA) are currently waging pro-active contract campaigns fighting not just for improved salary and benefits, but also for improved working and learning conditions, such as lower class sizes; more counselors, nurses, librarians, and other support personnel; less time on standardized testing; expansion of ethnic studies programs; and support for model community schools as an alternative to corporate-driven, privately-run charter schools.

And whereas UTLA and OEA are currently in mediation and are preparing to strike, if necessary, for a decent contract this fall and/or winter.

And whereas the success of UTLA and OEA – two of the largest and most strategically positioned teacher union locals in the state – will set a pattern for other contract negotiations throughout California,

And whereas the cross-local unity exhibited during the red state teacher strikes of last spring, resulting in increased salaries and funding for public education, demonstrates the power of statewide collective action,

There be it resolved that BFT commits to supporting solidarity actions in support of the UTLA and OEA contract campaigns, including:

- Publicizing the progress of the UTLA and OEA contract campaigns in all internal communications.
- Inviting UTLA and OEA leaders to speak before BFT elected bodies.
- Holding site meetings to discuss the issues and importance of the UTLA and OEA contract campaigns, as well as organizing solidarity actions at every work site.
- Preparing members to wear red shirts to work (“Red for Ed”) in solidarity with UTLA and/or OEA when they take a significant action.
- Staging solidarity “walk-ins” before work in the event of a strike.
- Initiating and/or joining local and regional support rallies in the event of a strike.

Be it further resolved that BFT will advocate within CFT for a similar statewide call to action.

Be it finally resolved that the BFT Executive Board will take responsibility for implementing this motion.