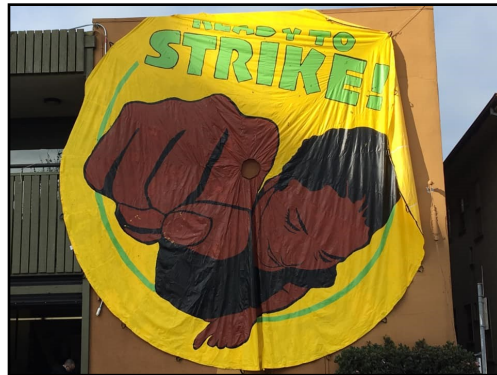


'It's all hands on deck'

Oakland educators, staff fight for students

As the UTLA Strike rocks Southern California, another is brewing in the North.

The Oakland Education Association will go to Fact Finding Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 with the Oakland Unified School District. While union leaders and their staff support are always looking for a settlement, they are preparing for a



strike.

"It's all hands on deck," says John Green, who with Becky Flanigan are the Primary Contact Staff in the Oak-

land Regional Resource Center. Green says eleven CSO members are regularly working on the Oakland building, and many more come in as needed to help with site visits and other activities.

Emeritus staff Doug Appel is bargaining at the table, Member Benefits staff Diane Morte is teaching educators about strike loans, California Associate Staff member Ramon MXXXX supports the Hustle app, and more support comes from organizers, Legal Department staff, Government Relations, Communications, and the Center for Organizing and Bargaining. "I don't think we've heard the word 'no' from anyone in Oakland for months," Green says.

Green says organizing success in Oakland is coming from a strong relationship between the CSO staff and the OEA leadership and members. "We're



just here to help execute their vision."

That vision, he says, is an Oakland Unified School District where students and educators are successful because class sizes are smaller, educators stay because they can earn a living wage, students get the supports they need, and neighborhood schools stay open.

"It's really a question of priorities," according to Green. Right now, Oakland has the lowest starting salary in Alameda County. "Teachers regularly leave us and get a \$15,000 pay bump in a neighboring district."

In the meantime, OUSD spends twice the state average on administrative salaries, as a percentage of total spending, and \$1,500 per student per year on consultants.

In recent days, Oakland staged a mass rally of its own, and dozens spent the past weekend creating art for future rallies, potentially picket lines of their own. If it comes to a strike, Green said,

CSO Staff John Green (left) at the Jan. 12 rally with Oakland Education Association.



Advocacy Appeal is produced by the California Staff Organization, the union for professional departmental and Regional UniServ Staff who work for the 320,000 members of the California Teachers Association. Comments or inquiries may be emailed to csocomcom@gmail.com. Find us online at

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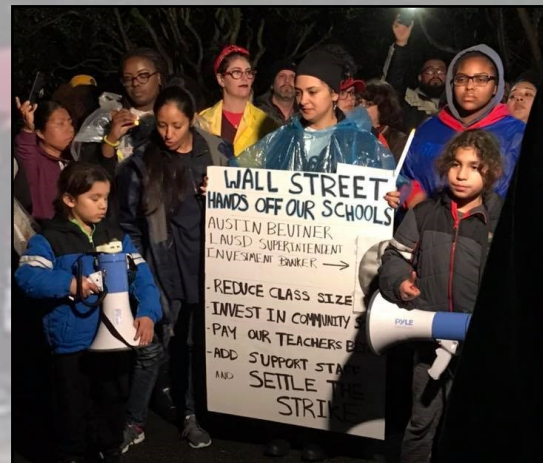
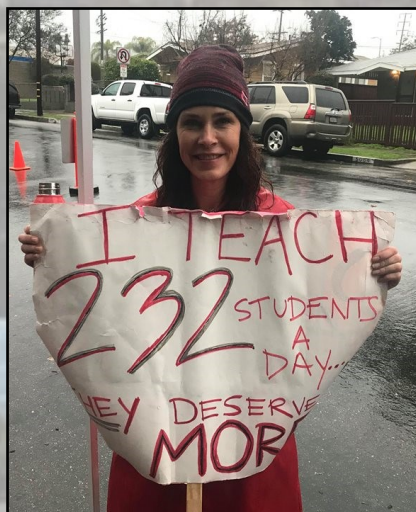
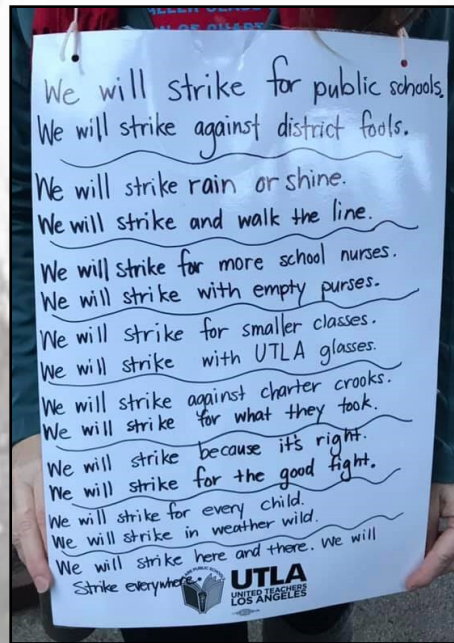
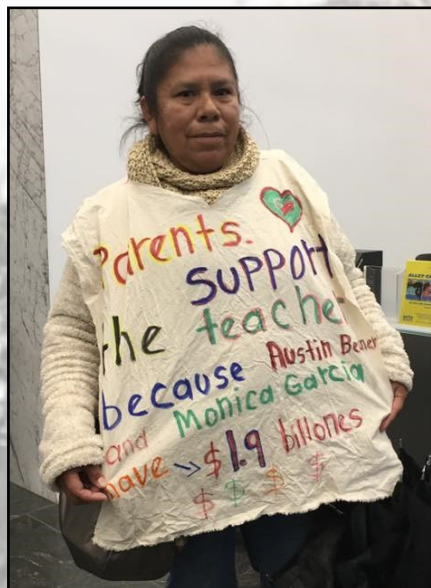


A CSO publication

On The Line, Rain Or Shine

Week One of the UTLA Strike saw massive, well-organized actions that are shaking the status quo in American education. Each dot in the photo is a member who made a personal decision to choose solidarity and self-sacrifice to support their students and the greater good — and that is what ultimately led to the historic Tentative Agreement Jan. 22! This issue of Advocacy Appeal is dedicated to those UTLA members, their dedicated UTLA Staff, thousands of community supporters, and the CSO staff who have joined them to support them as their Partners in Advocacy.





Partners in Advocacy: CSO at the UTLA strike

(Above) Retired CSO Michael Romo, who as Chapter Chair led his school to the UTLA picket lines in 1989, spent 11 years working for UTLA before coming to CTA. Now, as a volunteer, he supports striking teachers at Dahlia Heights Elementary School. He said morale remained high throughout the first week of the strike, founded in part on a community connection so strong that parents fed the strikers breakfast and lunch each day and joined them on the picket lines. (Left) UTLA members and parents show their creativity with some of the best picket signs captured by CSO members. (Below) The rain couldn't dampen the spirits of CSO members Christopher Brunette (left), Caroline Gonzales and Carolyn Govea (middle) and Christopher Arrellano (right, in hoodie).

