



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Evergreen Teachers Association

*Engaging Students, Involving Families, & Empowering Teachers since 1963*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Bargaining Impasse in Evergreen – Teachers to Stand Up for Their Students and Profession in Monday Morning Protest** Leafletting Before School – ‘We Are Willing to Strike if Necessary’

**SAN JOSE** – Frustrated Evergreen School District teachers will leaflet parents and picket before school Monday morning – and launch a “work to rule” campaign – to protest the district’s lack of respect and refusal to invest in educators in contract talks that have dragged on for nearly one year.

“As teachers, we have a professional obligation to stand up for our students and our profession,” said Evergreen Teachers Association President Brian Wheatley. “We’ve had enough! We are willing to strike, if necessary. Nothing will change until we demonstrate things must change.”

He noted these lowlights of the district’s draconian bargaining proposal:

--0% salary increase for educators.

--Increase TK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade class sizes from 24:1 to 27:1 ratio.

--Health benefits retroactively capped at 2012-2013 level.

(Teachers’ out-of-pocket expense would increase dramatically, amounting to a \$2,700 pay cut.)

--Upper grade art classes reduced.

Evergreen teachers will also launch a “work to rule” protest Monday that will involve not doing extra tasks that are not required by contract, but routinely done by educators on a daily basis, for free.

Evergreen teachers have not taken a formal strike vote yet and are awaiting a hearing with a state-appointed factfinder to possibly resolve the showdown.

Wheatley said Evergreen teachers are inspired by what educators in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky, and elsewhere have recently accomplished for students and communities. “We will not be treated with the same disrespect by our district year after year,” he said. “Together, we will send a message that cannot be ignored.”

--**WHAT:** Before school starts, teachers’ informational picketing and leafletting districtwide of parents about bargaining showdown as Evergreen School District refuses to invest in educators after nearly one year of contract negotiations.

--**WHEN and WHERE:** Before every school site, starting at 7:45 a.m. Monday, April 23. MEDIA NOTE: A strong turnout is expected at Holly Oak Elementary, 2995 Rossmore Way, San Jose, 95148. ETA President Brian Wheatley will be taking part there and available for interviews

Evergreen Teachers Association is affiliated with the California Teachers Association with 325,000 members and the National Education Association with 3.2 million members.