State Approves District’s Request for Mediator

May 9, 2012 (San Francisco) – At the request of the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), The Public Employment Relations Board today determined that SFUSD and United Educators of San Francisco (UESF) are at an impasse in contract negotiations. A state mediator will be assigned to work with UESF and SFUSD.

“We are very happy to finally be able to move forward with our talks,” said Superintendent Carlos Garcia. “After eight meetings the teachers union has not yet agreed to anything that will help reduce our growing deficit. We’re looking forward to working together as we face what continues to be the most difficult budget crisis in the history of public education.”

The district and UESF are in the midst of contract negotiations, which generally happen every two years. During current negotiations the district has asked the teachers union, whose member’s salary and benefits comprise 75 percent of the district’s operating budget, to agree to cost cutting measures over the next two school years.

Once the state mediator is assigned, the district and UESF will begin meeting again. The district has provided UESF with 5 available dates, between May 15 and June 27, to begin the mediation process.

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