

Letter: Time to reward Fresno teachers

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Interesting facts about Fresno Unified:

- Teachers' salaries have been frozen (no pay raise) since 2008.
- Teachers took a two-day forced layoff in 2009-2010 for a 1.6% cut in pay and a one-day forced layoff in 2010-2011 for a 1.1 % cut.
- The last six years of not receiving COLA is equal to a loss of buying power of 18%.
- Fresno is the second poorest large city in the United States.
- When Fresno Unified was in financial trouble, the teachers willingly didn't take a COLA to help the district with the promise that they would receive it when the district was more financially stable.
- The district now is stable with \$60 million in reserve.
- Superintendent Michael Hanson makes more money than Gov. Jerry Brown or any other superintendent in California including incentives (\$375,000). The school board, excluding Michelle Asadoorian, voted to give him a \$20,000 pay raise.
- The district's last best offer gave teachers what would be equal to less than 2.5% a year.

Isn't it time to compensate the teachers? It's time to show respect not just lip service to those who are on the front lines of education. Mr. Hanson, put your money where your mouth is.

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