



See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
 www.lovelafayette.org
 Phone: (925) 284-1968
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.lafayettechamber.org



COMPASS

Luxury | 4090 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette

6390± Sq. Ft. Main + Guest House
 1850± Sq. Ft. 5-Car Garage | 2.64± Acre Parcel

LuxuryHappyValleyEstate.com
 Offered at \$8,995,000

Lafayette's #1 Real Estate Team
 Since 2008

DanaGreenTeam.com
 925.339.1918 | DRE 01482454



Lafayette teachers ask district to make them whole

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Reading Specialist Lindsay McCormick is usually one of the first people parents and caregivers see when dropping their kids off at Lafayette Elementary School, as she directs traffic before and after clocking into the reading lab each morning. On Sept. 13, however, McCormick carried a sign saying “Lafayette Teachers have the lowest career earnings in the county” as she stood alongside more than a dozen of her

colleagues and another dozen parents, students and community members staging an informational picket.

The Lafayette credentialed teachers are seeking a 14% raise for their new contract and have rejected the district's offer of 12%.

With over a decade of combined experience in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, and at Saint Mary's

College, where she taught literacy courses for credentialed candidates, McCormick says she couldn't pass up the opportunity to work at LES when the position opened up four years ago. “I stumbled upon the job posting while supporting my credential students in their job search and knew that it was a rare find: a full-time Reading Specialist at one site in a highly supported school district,” McCormick recalls.

McCormick says she and her colleagues are ready to be made whole. “Every teacher I speak with here loves their students, loves the community, and wants to stay here more than anything. But when you see that you can get paid \$30,000 more just by going to a neighboring district, it starts really causing us to prioritize our family's needs over our professional needs.”

Kristi Gingrich, a third-grade teacher at LES and the Lafayette Education Association President, was among the more than two dozen teachers, accompanied by just as many aides, parents and students, standing in front of the school during morning drop that week. “We're asking the district to prioritize teachers over other things because teachers drive the classroom,” Gingrich said. “Parents support us and passed a tax parcel with the intent to help hire and retain teachers and unfortunately that money hasn't surfaced on our salary schedule yet.”

Lafayette has a reputation for being one of the top school districts in the state and in the county. It's also thought of as an affluent place – even as nearly a third of its residents are renters. Gingrich says the assumption that Lafayette teachers are doing fine because the school district is good and the median income of the city appears high compared to others is just plain wrong. “We are part of a coalition of teachers in the county and we are currently the lowest paid district



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

Lafayette Elementary School teachers at the Sept. 13 informational picket.

with that. It's misinformation to think that we're well paid because we're in Lafayette,” Gingrich says. “We had to hire 50 teachers this year.”

While the 12% increase teachers have been offered may sound significant at face value, Gingrich says it's not enough to make up for what she says amounts to a not-so-good deal that teachers agreed to as they were transitioning back to the classroom after the pandemic.

“In February 2021 we were tired and were grateful to have our kids back in the classroom. We'd worked so well with the district, we were proud to bring our kids back. We were talked into signing a two-year contract with a 2% COLA [cost of living increase],” Gingrich says.

This meant that in 2022-23, as the state offered a 6.55% cost of living increase, the teachers in Lafayette were already locked in to a 2% increase. “Those around us negotiated for a 7.5% and an 8% increase and we'd already accepted the two. We had made a mistake,” Gingrich says. “We can see that there are huge surpluses in our budget every year. And now we're asking our district to prioritize the budget and prioritize teachers who've invested

years and years of their time in students so that we can continue having successful students and great teachers.”

Another point of contention is the years of transferable service. Gingrich says that while surrounding districts have lifted the cap for numbers of transferable years, Lafayette is still at five. This means that if someone from San Francisco moved to the Lafayette school district with 20 years of experience, only five of those years of service would be reflected in their salary.

“There is a shortage of teachers – especially seasoned teachers with experience,” Gingrich says. And, she doesn't want teachers to be penalized for opting into the Lafayette School District.

Superintendent Brent Stephens says the district remains committed to ensuring that teachers are paid competitively and that a sound budget is maintained in the future. “We see the same issue about competitiveness that our teachers do. Two years ago, in the pandemic, we entered into a two-year contract with our teachers,” Stephens said in a written response.

... continued on Page A10

TOWN HALL THEATRE COMPANY

OPENING THIS SATURDAY

THE TURN OF THE SCREW

ADAPTED BY JEFFREY HATCHER
 FROM THE SHORT STORY BY HENRY JAMES
 DIRECTED BY DENNIS MARKAM

SEPT. 30 - OCT. 21

PLUS SCARY MOVIES AFTER SELECT PERFORMANCES

TOWNHALLTHEATRE.COM
 925.283.1557
 3535 SCHOOL ST. LAFAYETTE, CA

BATTERSBY.

Helping Sellers & Buyers

B.

“We have complete confidence in Ashley's understanding of the process, her knowledge of the local real estate market, her rapport with agents and buyers, and her judgment. She is extremely well-organized and anticipates all of the actions that need to be taken in order to get the best price for the seller. The level of service she offers her customers is awesome. She was always available when we needed to contact her, and always set our minds at rest with her extremely pleasant manner and wise counsel. My wife and I recommend her with no reservations. We've benefitted from her skills and professionalism on two occasions.”

- Seller

Ashley Battersby
 Broker/Partner
 (925) 323-9955
 DRE# 01407784
ashley@ashleybattersby.com
[@ashleybattersbyhome](https://www.ashleybattersbyhome.com)

Village ASSOCIATES

It's Village. Of Course.

ANNOUNCING THE NEW

Kurt Piper Group

Kelly O'Gorman Dina Del Monica Scott Sans Kristi Skrabo Kurt Piper

Intuitive Approach. Local Roots. Deeply Connected.

<https://kurtpipergroup.com>
kurt@kurtpipergroup.com
 925.818.8000
 DRE #01130308

Scan to view our website

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.