Statement to Board of Trustees, June 12, 2007
René G. Rodriguez, President
VCCCD Retirees' Association

1. We are here this evening because we know that the District is expecting a counter-proposal from the Retirees' Association. If your attorney has not already provided you with a copy of the District counter-proposal, we have a copy for you now if you so desire.
2. We are in receipt of your $25,000 counter-proposal, and we are here to express our deep disappointment with this offer. This can hardly be considered a serious offer from the District when retirees, by the District's own figures, are out-of-pocket more than $400,000 annually as a result of the new health plan in place.
3. We anticipate that you will be meeting with your attorney, Josh Morrison, in closed session, and we hope that you will reconsider your proposal to something that is more fair.
4. As you know, District employees who are now retired, and were hired prior to 1990, retired with lifetime benefits.
5. The health plan that is now in place has diminished that right, and consequently retirees are now suffering.
6. The lifetime benefits promised to retirees cannot be diminished, for they would no longer be equivalent to what the District promised.
7. The Board should consider the $1.5M savings that it is now enjoying because of the new health plan in place to settle this case, savings that are now being paid by retirees through increased out of pocket costs.
8. Aside from financial relief, the Board needs to offer retirees protection against any future changes in health benefits.
9. We feel that we have a strong case. Article 4 makes it clear that retirees are entitled to lifetime benefits, and that benefit levels should remain equivalent benefits as compared to prior plans.
10. Unless the Board is willing to reconsider their response to us, we will have no choice but to litigate this case.
11. We would be happy to try to answer any questions if you have any.
12. Thank you.