

School scene

West Valley-Mission college teachers protest contract delays

Negotiators for the West Valley-Mission Community College District and its teachers union have returned to the bargaining table after a 10-month impasse in talks.

After a fact-finding and mediation session Monday lasted until 11 p.m., both sides agreed to meet again next Monday, according to union President Ann Marie Wasserbauer.

College faculty members rallied before the session to protest the stalled negotiations. The college district declared impasse last May.

Teachers said that increased health-care premiums have eaten up a 7.85 percent raise awarded in 2015, and that their salaries have effectively stagnated for a decade. The union also is protesting the lack of health insurance for more than 400 part-time faculty members.

The college district would not comment on the claims. About the talks, spokesman Niall Adler wrote in an email, "We are hopeful for a quick resolution."

West Valley-Mission employs 750 full- and part-time faculty serving about 15,000 students on its two campuses.