

TURNING DISPUTES INTO SOLUTIONS

June 4th, 2026 (8:30am-12:30pm)

SIA OFFICE: 9800 Old Placerville Rd Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95827

Conflict doesn't have to divide your team—it can be a catalyst for stronger collaboration and innovation. This interactive workshop equips district managers with practical communication skills and problem-solving strategies to confidently manage and resolve workplace disputes.

Through guided activities and real-world scenarios, participants will strengthen their listening and speaking skills while learning how to turn difficult conversations into opportunities for growth. By the end of this session, attendees will be better prepared to foster a more positive, productive, and collaborative workplace culture.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Recognize the difference between positions and underlying interests in disputes.
- Apply supportive and assertive communication techniques, including paraphrasing, openness statements, and agreement framing.
- Use a structured interpersonal negotiation process to guide conversations toward resolution.
- Transform disputes into opportunities for collaboration and stronger workplace relationships.
- Confidently manage staff conflicts using practical, repeatable approaches.

Larry Dunn, PhD., has been with SIA since 2023, developing effective practices of conflict management for all educational settings. He has worked for more than 35 years as a mediator, trainer, consultant, and equips district managers with practical communication skills and problem-solving strategies. Over that time, he has helped schools, businesses, government, faith and other non-profit community organizations, teaching and conducting workshops on conflict management, group dynamics, and leadership.



For more information, please contact pgonzales@sia-jpa.org