



March 15, 2021

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Greetings!

Good morning! I hope you had a great weekend and are looking forward to an excellent week with our students!

Elections Update

- Thank you to those who took the time to vote in the 2021-2023 CVTA Executive Board election. You have elected: Carissa Carrera, President; James Steinman, Vice-President; Melissa Mora, Treasurer; Lisa Holguin, Secretary; Denise Lamper, Elementary Member-At-Large; Monica Martinez, Elementary Member-At-Large and Leo Perez, Secondary Member-At-Large. This board will be in place on July 1, 2021. [See the official results here.](#)
- No one was nominated to represent CVTA at this year's virtual NEA-RA, so we will open that election again shortly. We are allowed to send 6 representatives to make decisions at the national level on behalf of CVTA.
- Site Rep elections will take place in the near future also. Please watch for that announcement.

School Board Update from 3/11/21 Meeting

The School Board Meeting last Thursday was very interesting. I shared some items on Friday via our District email account, and I will review those here along with some other information. As always, School Board Meetings are open to the public and anyone can attend to hear the decisions being made which impact all of us.

- The board approved signing a resolution to seek a state testing waiver. This is good, because testing our students in the midst of a pandemic, knowing most of them have had connectivity issues in addition to everything else that comes along with a pandemic, would be unfair to say the least. Instead of being made to feel like failures on a state test, our students should be celebrated for any efforts they've made this year to connect in their classes. (Not to mention the incredibly difficult work our educators have been doing!)
- The board approved beginning small cohorts at each site on 3/18/21. This is a good start to helping our most struggling students, and hopefully can be expanded.
- The board decided to postpone a decision on a Hybrid start date, and instead tabled the item until the 3/25/21 board meeting. Lots of discussion was held around the disruption to students for such a short time, the money that we could get if we did offer in-person instruction in a Hybrid model (just under \$6 million), whether or not our sites are properly prepared, etc.
- The board approved our calendars for the next two years. [See the 2021-2022 calendar here.](#) [See the 2022-2023 calendar here.](#)
- The board did not approve for our Expanded Learning Programs to spend the \$4 million they have left from this year's money. If it isn't spent, it has to be returned. Considering this program has a 21 year history of excellent adherence to guidelines, this was the most confusing discussion and decision of the night. The board may be interested in the extra money for opening in a Hybrid model, but then are willing to send back \$4 million intended to be used for our students. We aren't sure why three board members voted against authorizing the spending of this money even after it was clearly explained that it is an unusually large amount of unspent money due to not being able to use it like they do in a non-pandemic year. The money could be used to buy supplies that could potentially be used for years to come and on more families than they are usually able to serve. And when we have Go Fund Me accounts set up by our school sites in dire need of supplies, several board members decide not to approve spending money and possibly having to

send it back??? It doesn't make sense, and sure seems as if something else is going on. I believe the topic will be addressed again at the 3/25/21 meeting, but it wasn't entirely clear.

Hybrid MOU

Most likely we will be done soon with a tentative agreement on a Hybrid MOU. Please watch for notices of meetings for discussion/questions, and voting information. The MOU would have to be approved by both our membership and the School Board. Having an MOU in place is just one step to being prepared for Hybrid...it does not mean we are ready to start. That decision is made by our School Board.

Upcoming CTA Conferences

Right now, CTA conferences are virtual, free to members, and they will even pay for your university credit if you need units! Don't miss out on this opportunity! Here is what's coming up:

CTA Special Education Conference Home Edition April 30- May 2

<https://www.cta.org/event/2021-special-education-conference>

Hybrid Prep Site Visits

I continue to make site visits to see the classroom and school site set ups for teaching in person. The number one concern we have is that all safety guidelines will be followed in the Hybrid Model, so I will be looking specifically for what the School Board has been told is happening at sites in preparation. This includes the plexiglass barriers, the air filtration, the distance between students as well as students from teacher, sanitizing stations, one way path markings, etc. Each week I will give an update about what I've seen. We do recognize that it is nearly impossible to be fully set up not knowing yet which teachers will remain in Distance Learning and which will return to in-person instruction, so we are looking for sample classrooms planned at various grade levels.

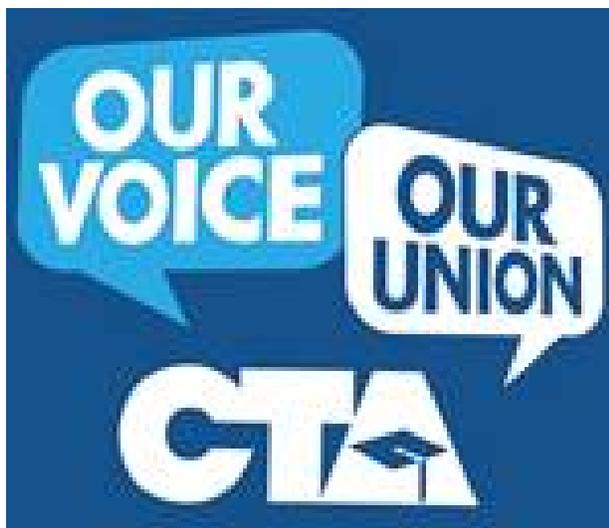
- This week visiting: ECE (it was rescheduled). That's it! I've visited all sites after that, but may need to go back for a follow-up at some to make sure things were corrected.

Reporting COVID Illnesses or seeking COVID Information

If you need information about what leaves are available or to report a positive COVID case, please use the HRleaves@cvusd.us email.

You are doing a great job educating our students during this pandemic! Thank you for working as hard as you are.

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Important Dates

- **March 15th** - RIF/Non re-elect notification deadline
- **March 17th** - CVTA Rep Council via Zoom, 4:30 pm
- **March 23rd** - High School (including LF) conferences 4:30 - 6:30 pm
- **March 24th** - HS (including LF) and MS Minimum Day
- **March 25th** - Middle School conferences 4:30 - 6:30 pm
- **March 25th** - CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
- **March 31st** - CVTA Eboard Meeting via Zoom 4:00 pm
- **April 2nd** - First day of Spring Break
- **April 9th to 11th** - CTA State Council
- **April 14th** - CVTA Rep Council via Zoom, 4:30 pm
- **April 15th** - CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

- **April 21st** - CVTA Office Hours via Zoom, 4:30-5:30 pm
- **April 22nd** - Final Evaluation Conference deadline
- **April 28th** - CVTA Ebaord meeting via Zoom, 4:00 pm
- **April 29th** - CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

Carissa Carrera
CVTA President

"You can't do it unless you organize."

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Coachella Valley Teachers Association

cvtaprez@gmail.com

86-695 Avenue 54 Suite J

Coachella, CA 92236

Phone: (760) 619-9236

Contact Our Team

