



February 5, 2024

Join our mailing list!

Dear Carissa,
Good morning!

Last week there was a Special Board Meeting Agenda posted online only, with no information given about the one agenda item listed (if you look for the agenda, it was slipped in between the previous agenda and the latest agenda). Interestingly, the "special" board meeting was set to begin at the same time as the regular meeting. At no time on Thursday evening did the school board acknowledge the special agenda. It was not mentioned, no special meeting was opened or closed, which means no time for public comments was provided for that one agenda item. Although we aren't sure how anyone would even know what to comment on, besides the typical lack of transparency we experience with this board.

This is the main reason we have requested regular attendance from each site at board meetings. These are the people directly affecting the work you do every single day. The board knows that not only can they get away with blatant Brown Act violations, they've come to expect no one questioning it. Holding meetings in an empty room (not counting the admin required to attend) is what they prefer. They slipped a special board meeting into the mix of the regular board meeting even though it's a violation to do so. Three CVTA members were present to witness it.

CVTA Organizing Meeting: The meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on February 6th at the Starbucks in Coachella on Cesar Chavez St. This will be our regular meeting place until we can find another location with outdoor space available to us. Organizing isn't just something we do for bargaining! We need to organize around any and all issues currently facing CVTA membership and our community. Please attend and bring a friend!

The next two Mondays are school holidays. Your weekly email will be sent on Tuesday of both weeks. Enjoy the extra days off and be sure to squeeze in some time just for you!

Important to Know

- Red Lock Issues: Many sites reps expressed concerns, but only a handful have submitted those in writing to me. Please reach out to your site reps if you would like us to visit to check the concerns. We will need a specific list of what to look at during our visit.
- Bargaining Survey: The survey is now closed. However, you will still have a chance to provide your input. Watch for Zoom links to be posted for meetings you can attend to share your suggestions.
- Quick reminder that the raise and the retro should be on your next paycheck (end of February). Contact your payroll clerk if you have questions. (For those receiving the attendance stipend, that also should be on the February check.)
- Watch for an LCAP meeting to be scheduled at your site in the near future. I cannot express the importance of participating in these meetings. The LCAP is the document that drives which priorities get funded, and unfortunately it's usually only the school board and the district office administrators who provide input. Please make sure the

CVTA Member Spotlight [\(Nominate someone here\)](#)

This week we would like to recognize **TK-12 Instructional Coaches**. The coaches were nominated by their colleague Dr. Rina Dungao (DO).

Here is what Rina wanted to share about the **TK-12 Instructional Coaches**:

I know that typically we are only supposed to nominate one person, but in this case, since the instructional coaches come as a group, I have decided to nominate each one of them (Dr. Yahaira Brown, Virginia Mora, Erika Bailey, Nicole Tadros, and Rene Coleman; I have recently nominated Eddie Simoneau so that's the reason he is not in the list) — as a GROUP for the individual work they each do for the elementary and secondary school sites they have been assigned to. Each of these instructional coaches has provided organized individual and group learning opportunities not only for teachers, but fellow colleagues as well— in both curriculum and testing areas. They have assisted teachers in analyzing student data, and based off this data, would either design or re-design instructional strategies where they see fit. In doing so, they have also built strong and lasting relationships not only with teachers, but with administrators and other instructional coaches (here and in other districts).

I have witnessed how Dr. Brown would stay late nights ensuring that benchmarks are completed, all pacing guides are up-to-date, assessments are in order with the technology or app working, and presentations during site PLCs are up and ready to go. Ms. Mora and Ms. Tadros have both been extremely supportive, tenacious, and encouraging in the creation of a Summit K12 folder when the program was fairly new —which gave all teachers comprehensive (Summit K12) notes (through Canvas). Ms. Mora also created a two-page guide in distinguishing the difference between language and content objectives which resulted in more elementary teachers having accurate language objectives while using ELD 'look-fors' such as "think-pair-share" and responding in complete sentences. Ms. Coleman ensures that all ELD students (especially EL SPED) have the necessary accommodations needed for them to succeed academically, and Ms. Bailey, also a strong supporter when the Summit K12 program began, created charts for teachers to make use of their time appropriately and effectively for their non-ELD students. Each of these coaches made sure that all the bases were covered and that teachers' pedagogical needs were met so our students all thrive where they are at.

Congratulations to the **TK-12 Instructional Coaches**!

Wishing you all another great week!

[Visit Our Website](#)

Important Dates

- **February 6th:** CVTA Organizing Meeting at Starbucks in Coachella (Cesar Chavez St.), 4pm
- **February 12th:** Lincoln's Birthday Holiday
- **February 13th:** CVTA Rep Council Mtg. 4:30 pm @ CDA Library
- **February 19th:** Presidents' Day Holiday
- **February 20th:** CVTA Virtual Office Hours 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- **February 22nd:** CVUSD School Board Mtg. 5:30 pm @ DO ([Live Stream Link here](#)). ([Submit public comments here](#))
- **February 27th:** CVTA Eboard Meeting 4:30

Addressing Special Education Challenges Spring Webinar Series

CTA members continue to face challenges as they related to workload and district support when delivering Special Education services and supporting the needs of students with IEPs. CTA has programs and resources to help local associations get the help that they need in order to better support students, educators, and their communities.

All sessions are 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

JAN 22, 2024

NAVIGATING SPECIAL EDUCATION AS A GENERAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Past and present teacher education programs provide deficits in learning about how to navigate Special Education. In this training, we will discuss Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings, responsibilities, and legal obligations to provide individualized instruction to students and to participate in the IEP process. We will also briefly discuss instructional strategies, approaches, and how to understand accommodations and modifications.

FEB 12, 2024

IEP RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This training is for all school staff. We will review IEP meeting and attendance expectations, school personnel and parent training, miscellaneous IEP and Special Ed "must knows" and we will also review compliance complaint procedures.

FEB 26, 2024

ORGANIZING AROUND SPECIAL EDUCATION ISSUES

This workshop is designed for association leaders who are dealing with Special Education issues in their districts. Participants will learn strategies to build effective advocacy campaigns to support the learning conditions of students and the working conditions of teachers. We will use a social justice lens to examine how to build this work from the ground up.

APR 22, 2024

REMOVING THE BARRIERS TO LEARNING THROUGH UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING (UDL)

How do you currently remove learning barriers for students in your classroom? UDL is an evidence-based framework that can empower educators to remove barriers for students in your classroom, in order to create more access to the curriculum and content. Learn about how to implement evidence-based strategies and supports into your daily routines and classroom curriculum.



Information, resources, and programs listed are available at: www.cta.org/special-education-resources

TO REGISTER GO TO:



Carissa Carrera
CVTA President

"An injury to one is an injury to all."

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