



May 3, 2021

Join our mailing
list!

Greetings!

Good morning! I hope you had a wonderful weekend. Over the weekend I attended CTA's first ever Special Education Conference, and it was great! I'm already looking forward to next year's conference.

CTA has reminded us that we need to make sure our beneficiaries are up-to-date. You have automatic plans with both CTA and NEA, and you should also check with any District plans and disability plans. Many family members are not aware of the plans you have, and without the beneficiaries being kept up-to-date, they won't be able to notify your family if needed.

Please take the time to check here: <https://www.ctamemberbenefits.org>

In-Person High School Graduations

The District is currently planning for in-person High School Graduations. Because the Distance Learning MOU requires that all graduations be conducted virtually, CVTA and CVUSD have entered into a Side Letter Agreement to allow for the high school graduations to be held in-person. CVTA Bargaining Unit Member participation is purely voluntary, as agreed to in the side letter. All other promotions/graduations should remain virtual.

[Read the Side Letter Agreement regarding 2021 High School In-Person Graduations here](#)

School Board Meeting Information

At last week's meeting, the school board voted to turn down the Hybrid MOU. That's not normally something a board does, considering they are supposed to direct the work of their own bargaining team, but it's obviously a possibility any time something is up for a vote that it could be either approved or denied.

With that being said, this vote was concerning for a couple of reasons. By voting no, they essentially are saying that they did not approve what their own bargaining team negotiated on their behalf. It seems the main issue was the schedule for what a hybrid model would look like. The same schedule that nearly every District in California has used to bring back their students in-person. That schedule was presented to the board at every board meeting since the end of September, and they didn't think to tell their bargaining team that it wasn't what they wanted?

You have to ask yourself why they would wait 7 months, when a tentative agreement had been reached, to tell their team to work on a different schedule. They had 7 months, after all. Maybe it seemed good until they actually had to make a decision about reopening? We know that 74% of parents wanted their children to remain in Distance Learning. We know that the decision to move to a hybrid model was in the school board's hands. We know that board members stated they wanted to bring back students in-person. Yet when it came time to actually take on the responsibility of making a decision, the board chose to place the blame on "unions" for not wanting kids to come back.

It seems to us that if the school board wanted students back, they'd have told their team to negotiate for what they wanted before 7 months had passed. If they wanted students back, they wouldn't have waited until March to begin Power Up Hubs when they could have started them back in November. And if they didn't feel comfortable reopening, they should own that decision rather than placing the blame on those of actually doing the work every day.

It is disrespectful for certificated and classified union members to have to listen to public

comments stating that if the teachers didn't want to come back, then find new ones. And not only did the board not speak up and state that the decision lied solely with them, they publicly agreed with the misinformed and disrespectful comments, with one board member actually stating it was the unions' fault. I'd like to clarify...**the unions do not have the power to decide if we remain in Distance Learning or move into a Hybrid model. The school board makes that decision.** The MOU only determined how that would look for our membership. The CVUSD School Board decided to remain in Distance Learning while blaming their employee organizations for the decision. Know this...we could have students in classrooms right now with their teachers, but we don't. CVTA had a properly negotiated agreement with the District that would have brought students and teachers back, if only the school board had chosen to do so.

Site Rep Election Results

Elections are closed for the 2021/2022 Site Reps. Once again there are several sites without any representation, which could be problematic throughout the summer. There may be information we need reps to pass along to their members during the summer, and moving into the new school year those sites without reps will not be adequately represented. We thank everyone who has accepted the responsibility of being a site rep for next year!

- AE: no rep (1)
- BD: no reps (2)
- CC: no reps (2)
- CDA: one rep Jeff Kruger, one vacancy
- CMA: one rep Michelle Ramos, one vacancy
- CVHS: four reps Doreen Vicario, Autumn Carberry, Matt Ellis, Renee Vargas, one vacancy
- DMHS: four reps Richard Ortiz, Jesse Cota, Joyce Mochizuki, Maria Blackmon
- DO: one rep Penney Woods
- ECE: no rep (1)
- JK: two reps Anna Razo, Alma Gutierrez
- LF: no rep (1)
- LP: two reps Shannon Rodriguez, Kelly Reilly
- MA: no reps (2)
- MV: one rep Kathy Galarze, one vacancy
- OA: no reps (2)
- PP: no rep (1)
- PV: one rep Mike Abril
- SM: two reps Sarah Reyes, Jamie Kertchersid
- SV: one rep Steven Clifford, one vacancy
- TC: one rep Mary Fisher, one vacancy
- VDS: one rep Stephanie Ortiz, one vacancy
- VV: no reps (2)
- WS: one rep Yvette Ossinalde, one vacancy
- WSHS: two reps John Sellers, Patrick Marquez

CVTA Site Visits re: Negotiations

We continue to hold Zoom Site Visits to discuss recent Hybrid negotiations and the upcoming Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations. These meetings are optional, of course. If we have a current personal email address on file for you, you will receive a direct invitation link. If you do not receive one at least a week before your site is scheduled, please check with your site reps for information. We look forward to seeing you there!

- 5/3 3:20 PM VV

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.

Visit Our Website



Important Dates

- **May 5th** - CVTA Rep Council meeting via Zoom, 4:30 pm
- **May 12th** - CVTA Office Hours via Zoom, 4:30-5:30 pm
- **May 13th** - CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
- **May 14th** - CVTA/CVUSD Negotiations
- **May 19th** - CVTA/CVUSD Negotiations
- **May 19th** - CVTA Eboard meeting via Zoom, 4:00 pm
- **May 26th** - Final CVTA Rep Council meeting, 4:30 pm
- **May 27th** - CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
- **May 28th** - Last day to notify for next year's assignment
- **May 31st** - Memorial Day holiday
- **June 3rd** - Last day of school

Carissa Carrera

CVTA President

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

CONFIDENTIALITY: This communication and any documents, files, or previous-mail messages attached to it constitute an electronic communication within the scope of the Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 USCA 2510. This communication may contain non-public, confidential, or legally privileged information intended for the sole use of the designated recipient(s). The unlawful interception, use or disclosure of such information is strictly prohibited under 18 USCA 2511 and any applicable laws. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you are hereby notified to destroy all copies of this e-mail message and to contact the sender.

Coachella Valley Teachers Association

cvtaprez@gmail.com

86-695 Avenue 54 Suite J

Coachella, CA 92236

Phone: (760) 619-9236

Contact Our Team

