



July 27, 2020

Good evening. Today we met with the District for the second time to continue working on an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) regarding Distance Learning for the 2020/2021 school year.

We feel a need to express our frustration with this process. CVTA has actively been working with the District since the 2019/2020 school year ended in the hopes that we would have an MOU well before the start of the 2020/2021 school year. It was necessary at first to work through the district's process of surveys and task force meetings, while continuing to closely monitor the number of days left to get this work done.

On July 8th, we sent a conceptual MOU to the District and scheduled a meeting to discuss it with them on July 15th. That was longer than we would have liked to wait, but it's the only date they were willing to schedule. On July 15th CVTA attempted to meet with the District on the mutually scheduled bargaining date, however we were unable to meet because the District did not have the mutually agreed upon date in their calendars. The next date they were willing to meet was an entire week later on July 21st.

It is important to note that it seems as if the District was delaying our meetings, essentially making us wait until the last minute to work on the MOU. August 11th is right around the corner, and we still do not have an agreement for Distance Learning. Additionally, we have several bargaining unit members whose first work day is August 3rd (next week).

You may have heard that PSUSD and PSTA signed their MOU today, one which allows for teachers to have the choice of working from home or from the classroom in their Distance Learning model. This agreement was reached after more than a month of arduous meetings, often multiple times a day for several hours on consecutive days. Not a week or more between each meeting.

CVTA has attempted to conduct bargaining in a reasonable timeframe. We are currently working with CTA attorneys on next steps because we must ensure that our members are safe while performing their work for the District. Not having an MOU in place to delineate safety measures and work expectations less than a week before some of our members are due to return is a serious concern.

We have two more meetings scheduled for Wednesday and Friday of this week and will continue to update you as to our progress in reaching an agreement that provides for the safety and well-being of our members.

Thank you, and please reach out if CVTA can help you with anything.

Sincerely,

Carissa Carrera  
President, Coachella Valley Teachers Association  
(760) 619-9236