

September 23, 2024



Coachella Valley Teachers Association
California Teachers Association
National Education Association

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CVUSD SCHOOL BOARD

• **ALTRENA SANTILLANES, AREA 2**

• **TRINIDAD ARREDONDO, AREA 1**

• **ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ, AREA 4**



**THE ONLY CANDIDATES SUPPORTED
BY COACHELLA VALLEY TEACHERS**

Paid for by Coachella Valley Teachers Association Fund for Quality Education FPPC# 1271156

Good morning!

If you received an email from us yesterday about signing up for texts, that was real! We are hoping to begin using text messages for quick messages in between the weekly emails, if necessary. You can add your cell number via the email you received or use the link above.

All six candidates for CVUSD School Board participated in a "Meet the Candidates" forum on Friday night sponsored by Alianza. For the most part it was very professional and serious responses were given by the candidates. What stood out as a bit concerning were some comments made by current board member Jesus Gonzalez. For example, he credited only the current school board with *any* increase in test scores we've seen in CVUSD over the past few years. He also claimed that CVTA wants all new money that comes in every year, leaving none for the board to use (don't forget, though, that the district has increased their reserves each year employees have received a salary increase). He made a few disparaging remarks about "the current CVTA President" as well, all in an attempt to discredit the candidates who are supported by CVTA. He also criticized current board member Trinidad Arredondo for visiting school sites and "bothering" teachers and others.

I'm not sure about you, but I find it refreshing when a school board member takes the time to visit and talk to staff, rather than only attending photo op events. Rest assured, the three CVTA endorsed candidates did a fantastic job answering the questions and remained student and employee centered in their responses.

Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank - Last few days to enroll!!

Open enrollment is from September 1-30. In order to withdraw from the Sick Leave Bank you need to enroll once and then donate one day each year as needed. If you ever need to use this bank, you get 40 paid days and will then have the option to seek donations for another 40 paid days. Please don't wait until it's too late to join. Contact Jasmine Persaud in HR to enroll.

Department Chairs/Leads (same name now for both Elementary and Secondary)

Please let us know if you are a lead and are being asked to do more than what was required last year. This could be more frequent meetings, more duties with your team or department, or something else.

We are currently working with HR on this topic to address possible concerns with a change in working conditions. Your input will help.

Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP)

I have been told that the district is working on this plan (although it was required to be in place by July 1, 2024) and will address training administrators on the requirements. This is something that we need to stay on top of because it takes all of us to ensure our sites are safe. File complaints as needed.

Read about the WVPP requirements [here](#). You can file complaints with OSHA at (909)383-4321.

CVUSD School Board Elections

Major change does not happen because of the work of one or two people. We need all of you to help in one way or another. Can you put signs in your car windows? Do you live within the CVUSD boundaries and can put a lawn sign in your yard (or know someone who can)? Can you help deliver signs or pick up items for your school site?

All of that would be very helpful. But the most important way you can help will be walking the neighborhoods around your school site one or two times in the next few weeks. Site Reps are receiving training tomorrow on a new app we will use to conduct the precinct walks, and soon they will be asking you to sign up to walk and talk to the voters near your school site. Keep an eye out for that!

RIF Update

We now have approximately 14 people on the RIF list still waiting to be rehired. As mentioned before, we have a CTA lawyer working on our behalf to discuss errors or discrepancies related to this (in addition to the decisions made recently to withhold information or access from CVTA which impedes our ability to do our work). We will continue to update you as we have new information.

Have a great week! We will visit your sites soon to check in. :)

[Visit Our Website](#)

Important Dates

- **September 24th:** CVTA Executive Board Meeting, 4:30 pm via Zoom
- **September 26th:** CVUSD School Board Mtg. 5:30 pm @ DO ([Live Stream Link here](#))
- **September 27th to 29th:** CTA Special Ed Conference (cta.org to register, must pay for yourself)
- **September 30th:** Deadline for Admin to review Site Budget with Staff

- **October 2nd:** CVUSD PD Day, non-student day
- **October 8th:** CVTA Rep Council Mtg. 4:30 pm via Zoom
- **October 10th:** CVUSD School Board Mtg. 5:30 pm @ DO ([Live Stream Link here](#))
- **October 14th:** First bargaining day with the district
- **October 15th:** Second bargaining day with the district
- **October 15th:** CVTA Virtual Office Hours 4:30 pm via Zoom
- **October 22nd:** CVTA Executive Board Meeting 4:30 pm via Zoom
- **October 24th:** CVUSD School Board Mtg. 5:30 pm @ DO ([Live Stream Link here](#))



Carissa Carrera
CVTA President

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

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