

March 10, 2025



Coachella Valley Teachers Association

California Teachers Association

National Education Association

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Remember to wear your CVTA shirt each Wednesday and also on Bargaining Days!

Good morning! This is a lengthy email but please take the time to read the entire thing. **Online voting begins today for the NEA-RA Election** - check your personal email account for the link to your ballot.

There is a **Rep Council meeting on Tuesday** afternoon, so please make sure your reps are aware of any concerns you want brought to the council. On **Tuesday afternoon HR will hold a meeting** for those RIFd teachers needing a tie breaker for seniority dates (you will be invited if this pertains to you). On **Wednesday we will learn about the plan for Summer School** which we've been told includes paying your per diem rate again. Also on **Wednesday is the 4:30 meeting for the RIFd teachers** to meet with our assigned CTA Attorney (VDS MPR; Teachers on a temporary contract received release letters recently, which are not the same as RIF notices.)

- **School Board Election:** While we were not successful in getting all 4 of our endorsed candidates elected, two of them did! Trini Arredondo was reelected and Thomas TorteZ ran unopposed and has already been seated on the board. There is still an investigation into whether or not Jocelyn Vargas committed election fraud by purchasing a home outside of our district and taking a loan out as a primary residence. If it isn't election fraud, it's bank fraud. We look forward to seeing the outcome of that election. Adrian Rodriguez and Altrena Santillanes are great people who want what's best for the students of CVUSD, and we hope they continue to stay involved and run again in the future!
- **Do you need to use your Bereavement Leave?** You must complete the Bereavement Form on School Stream in order to use your days without any issue. We have been told that if the form is not completed together with entering the absence, your absence may be deducted from sick time instead.
- **Preliminary RIF Notices** should be delivered today.
 - 1) Please be sure to request a rep if one is not already provided for you.
 - 2) You will receive two packets, one from CTA (digital) and one from CVUSD. Complete and submit the paperwork in both packets in a timely fashion. Some of the forms will require you to visit HR for date stamping and submission. Some are duplicates but CTA prefers their form over the district's, so please do complete, submit, and copy both packet forms.

3) If you receive a RIF Notice, plan to attend our meeting on March 12th with the CTA lawyer assigned to represent RIFd CVTA members (to be held in the VDS MPR at 4:30 pm). It is critical that you verify your CVTA membership by checking that you have dues deducted from your paychecks or you will not be able to be represented by the CTA lawyer!

3) Please bring all completed paperwork, including those date and time stamped from HR, with you to this meeting.

4) If you have questions regarding the paperwork, please contact your site rep(s) or any CVTA board members ([contact info on our website](#)).

- **Using District Technology and Servers:** Once again we would like to remind you that what you do on district issued devices or on your own devices using the district servers IS NOT PRIVATE. The district can and is likely accessing your devices to monitor your actions. Standard practice is to only access devices when there is a cause to do so, but the district rightfully can access devices at any time, searching for certain things and/or scraping data as needed.
- **ILT "I Cause Learning" Videos (Repeat):** CVTA has significant concerns about the videos the ILT teams are being asked to create. These concerns have been and continue to be shared with Ed Services. There is a very rational concern that the videos' purpose is to advertise for consultant Gary Soto's company. There is no educational outcome from the creation of these videos. Creating one of these videos does not improve learning for your students. In fact, you will be required to take time away from instructing your students in order to work on the videos. We are unclear where the money is coming from to pay for the subs which will be provided and we feel subs are better used for IEP meetings or trainings which directly impact the instruction you provide. Considering Mr. Soto's contract has not yet been renewed, will these videos be used to offer evidence that his consulting is working? That's an unacceptable use of the teacher workday, in our opinion. As mentioned, we will continue this discussion with Ed Services to seek further clarity on the assignment.
- **Watch your use of PN Days (repeat).** You may only use 8 PN days per year (your available sick days converted into PN). If you exceed 8 PN days, payroll will begin to deduct your PN absences from your pay, regardless of your available sick leave. Make sure to properly mark the absences you enter! (Note: You may use an additional 4 PN days, for a total of 12, only if you have the sick time available and your payroll technician has been notified.)
- **Negotiations:** We have negotiations with the district tomorrow, March 11th, and again on March 26th. Be sure to show your support for your CVTA Bargaining Team! We do not expect much progress considering the majority of the school board did not change with the election. Look for an update to be sent in the evening of negotiation days.

Have a great week!

Visit Our Website

Important Dates

- **March 10th:** CVTA Organizing Committee Meeting 4:00 pm @ JK Room 13
- **March 10th-14th:** Online Voting for NEA-RA - please be sure to check your personal email account
- **March 11th:** Bargaining - Please wear your CVTA shirt!
- **March 11th:** CVTA Rep Council Meeting via Zoom, 4:30 pm
- **March 12th:** RIF Meeting with CTA Attorney, VDS MPR 4:30 pm
- **March 17th-21st:** Online Voting for CVTA Eboard - please be sure to check your personal email account
- **March 18th:** CVTA Virtual Office Hours 4:30 pm
- **March 19th-20th:** Elementary Parent Conferences
- **March 20th:** CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, [Zoom Link](#)
- **March 25th:** CVTA Eboard Meeting via Zoom, 4:30 pm
- **March 26th:** Bargaining - Please wear your CVTA shirt!



Carissa Carrera
CVTA President

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

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