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

Yesterday evening we provided a counter proposal to the District with an agreement to meet today to discuss it. Before we could even meet today, the District provided a counter proposal without first giving us any opportunity to discuss the rationale behind our counter proposal. This is not standard practice and concerns us because they did not follow the negotiation protocols established during these MOU meetings, causing potential delays in getting a deal done.

We still have not reached an agreement, requiring us to schedule another meeting for tomorrow August 5, 2020.

Many of you have asked what will happen if we do not have an MOU agreed upon by August 11, 2020. If that happens, the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) will remain in effect and all of the provisions outlined in the CBA will need to be followed. We know violations of the CBA will occur while in a Distance Learning Model because Distance Learning is not addressed in the CBA. We had hoped to avoid these conflicts by having a signed MOU by now.

A major point of contention continues to be the choice to work from home. Another significant issue is the District’s desire to mandate recordings of live synchronous instruction, which violates California Ed Code, language in the CBA, and CVUSD Board Policy.

There is a virtual school board meeting this Thursday. Closed Session begins at 5:30 pm and Open Session usually around 6:30 pm. If you wish to comment regarding negotiations, those comments can be submitted for Closed Session Public Comments since that is a regular item on the Closed Session agenda. Public Comments for Open Session are not limited to agenda items. We are including the links for submitting comments and for attending the meeting.

Link for submitting Public Comments

Link to attend the virtual meeting

We will continue working diligently on the MOU and will update you with information as it becomes available.

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

Sincerely,

Carissa Carrera
President, Coachella Valley Teachers Association
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