

# Chapter Talking Points

*August 30, 2021*

## Info for chapter leaders

### Area meetings next Thursday, September 9

- The first Area meetings of the 2021-2022 school year will be held a week from Thursday on September 9. In addition to the current reopener bargaining, we are also getting ready for full contract negotiations and are facing the voucher threat posed by the Student Centered Funding proposal. We will be discussing these and other important topics. Please be sure to attend or have someone from your site present at the meeting. Zoom links will be sent this Friday.

### Hold A Chapter Meeting To Help Identify Bargaining Goals

- Be sure you hold a chapter meeting at your site to identify bargaining goals, if you haven't done so already. As we prepare for full contract negotiations to begin in the second half of the year – where we can bring forward any issues that we are collectively willing to fight for – UTLA is implementing a systematic process to seek deep member input in the development of the union's bargaining platform. This is a 3 step process:
  1. **Chapter leaders will lead meetings** in every chapter to involve all members in discussions to identify the issues that we should fight for in our contract campaign. Identified issues will be reported back by chapter leaders through an online report form.
  2. **The UTLA Board of Directors will analyze the issues** identified, with an emphasis on root causes, and develop a draft bargaining platform to present to chapter leaders for additional review and input.
  3. **The bargaining platform will be reviewed with members** before it is put to a vote of all 34,000 UTLA members as the union's bargaining goals, from which the UTLA bargaining team will develop more detailed proposals.

All of this will happen **BEFORE we begin negotiations** with LAUSD – so that we enter those negotiations united and organized behind our collectively identified

demands.

Here are all the materials you will need to facilitate chapter discussions to identify important issues:

- A [PowerPower point presentation](#) on LAUSD funding and the UTLA bargaining platform development process that you can use to help get the meeting started. There are some sample talking points in the notes section that you can use. There is also a [PDF version](#) that can be printed to make it easier to have the notes at hand.
- Members should discuss [these 6 questions](#) in your chapter meeting.
- The [report back link](#) – for Chapter Chairs to report back on issues identified in the chapter discussion.

[Power Point Presentation \(will download\)](#)

[Presentation as PDF](#)

[Discussion Guide](#)[Online Report Back link](#)

## Send in the Notice of Chapter Chair Election

- If you were the 2020-2021 Chapter Chair for your school or chapter, intend to continue as the chapter chair for the 2021-2022 school year, and are uncontested, you must submit a [Notice of Chapter Chair Election](#). There is no automatic extension of your assignment as chapter chair - you are required to submit the form via email to Princess Sykes at [psykes@utla.net](mailto:psykes@utla.net). You were informed by email if you have a contested or uncontested election.

If you are not intending to run, and no one from your chapter self nominated in the nomination window, please share this announcement with others at your site so that a chapter chair can represent your school. It is important that we receive this form as soon as possible to complete the election process for your chapter and officially record the name of the 2021-2022 Chapter Chair.

[Notice of Chapter Chair Elections](#)

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## Talking points for chapter meetings

## Bargaining update

- In bargaining with LAUSD last week, UTLA presented progressive proposals that include a fair pay raise, strengthened quarantine protocols, a pause in educator evaluations during this unprecedented time, and a robust Continuity of Learning plan that includes educator discretion and flexibility for families whose children need to quarantine.
- On Monday, in an act of bad faith bargaining, LAUSD Interim Superintendent Megan Reilly instructed principals to unilaterally implement the district's Continuity of Learning proposal — without having reached a bargaining agreement as required by law and without it being vetted by parents and educators. At a time when we are working incredibly long hours and pushing ourselves to the limit to keep our schools safe, this top-down mandate is disrespectful of educators and families. We need a partner running the district, not a top-down bureaucrat. Ignoring the need for ongoing collaboration at this sensitive time is irresponsible.
- Only three weeks into the new school year, Reilly may be showing her true colors as the former CFO of disgraced privatizer superintendent John Deasy. The illegal implementation of the Continuity of Learning proposals aligns with her push for the internal voucher scheme called Student Centered-Funding, which would disproportionately hurt low-income students of color and undermine school stability, particularly in Black and Brown communities. Read more on the SCF scheme [here](#).
- In response to the district's violation of labor law, we are filing an Unfair Labor Practice charge with the Public Employment Relations Board while continuing to work on a Continuity of Learning program that works better for students, educators, and families.
- On Continuity of Learning, the UTLA Bargaining Team developed a counter proposal on what would be best for students, creating options for connecting with quarantining students and supporting their continued learning. Options in UTLA's proposals include using a classroom camera for students to Zoom in during in-person instruction or meeting with quarantined students during scheduled office hours. The office hours would allow for small groups of students to meet in a more direct way with their instructor and would offer students and families flexibility to access instruction during times that fit their schedule.

## Email the School Board and superintendent Reilly and tell them to say NO to the SCF voucher scheme

- Under the district's proposed voucher scheme (SCF), funding would move with each student instead of being allocated centrally for staff and programs. This seemingly benign proposal would be disastrous for our schools for the following reasons:

**It is racist:** This funding formula will disproportionately hurt low-income students of color, producing racially disparate negative consequences, including the loss of libraries and the arts, school closures, and the undermining of school stability, particularly in Black and Brown communities. Schools that are already struggling with inadequate resources and that serve students from under-resourced communities would be hit hardest. The competition for funds could force these already under-funded schools to lose even more resources, and eventually to permanently shut down.

**It is ineffective:** By the district's own admission this funding system brings no academic advantages. It has not been shown to improve student achievement where it has been tried.

**It will lead to school closures:** Schools in wealthier neighborhoods with more programs and resources will attract more students. Every time a student leaves a school, the school would have even fewer resources to support the students who remain, triggering cuts to staff and essential programs. Those cuts in turn would encourage other families to leave in search of the programs they want for their children, creating a vicious cycle of loss for low income neighborhood schools, which would eventually result in their spiraling down to closure.

- These are some of the devastating consequences of adopting a funding formula which brings no benefits or improvements to student learning. It will also make it much harder to fight together for systemwide changes, such as lower class sizes and more nurses, since a significant portion of funding is controlled independently by each school. We must fight to defeat this harmful voucher scheme before it destroys our system of public education in Los Angeles.
- [Email the board and interim superintendent](#) today to tell them to vote NO on **Student Centered Funding**.

## Special Education is general education

- The failure of the federal government to keep the promise of funding IDEA at 40% means school districts across the country must battle each year for the meager federal funds which has pitted special education and general education against each other, when in fact all students benefit when Congress invests in IDEA.
- When the funds received from federal or state sources are not sufficient to cover Special Education costs, the district has to pay a higher proportion of the special education cost by pulling from their general education budgets. This means that the district is forced to make cuts to programs that benefit all students, general education and special education. Therefore, more federal funds for Special Education could mean, for example, smaller class sizes and more resources for all students, not just for those with identified special needs.
- This issue affects us all, and together we can demand that Congress Fulfill the Promise to our students. Sign the petition [here](#) and post to social media using the hashtag #FulfillThePromise and the link FulfillThePromise.net

## No on the Recall

- Millionaires who want to roll back worker protections in California are funneling big money into a campaign to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom. Let us be clear: If they are successful, we'll lose many of the hard-fought gains we've made on higher wages, our pensions, funding for public education and other services, laws against discrimination and more.

**To protect our contract and our ability to provide the services our community needs, we are urging you to vote NO on the Recall!**

- Members are welcome to join the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor in calling fellow union members across the state and urging them to vote "No" on the recall. The phone banks will be done using your mobile phone through Zoom, so you can help get out our union message without leaving home!

Click [here](#) to volunteer

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## **UTLA calendar**

**Sept. 9:** Area meetings

**Sept. 23:** House of Representatives meeting

**Sept. 30:** Board of Directors meeting