

# Chapter Talking Points

May 2, 2022

## Info for chapter leaders

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### **PICK UP PARENT LEAFLETS AND BD-2 VOLUNTEER FLYERS THIS WEDNESDAY, MAY 4**

- **Send someone from your chapter to pick up parent leaflets about our Beyond Recovery contract demands, along with flyers for every member about School Board District 2 volunteer shifts at the location for your Area listed here:**

[https://vision.utla.net/s/Leaflet Drop May2022.pdf](https://vision.utla.net/s/Leaflet_Drop_May2022.pdf)

**NOTE: Valley West pick up will be on Thursday, May 5**

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### **This month's course of action to launch the Beyond Recovery Contract Campaign**

- At the Area Meetings held on April 27, we discussed 4 things we must do in the next month in order to launch our Beyond Recovery Contract campaign on a solid foundation – Campaign in School Board District 2, confirm Chapter Chairs, start parent outreach and sign up non-members.

#### **1. Recruiting members to phone bank and canvas for Rocio Rivas in School Board District 2**

If every chapter recruits 3 members to do phone banking and 3 members to canvas we will have enough conversations to win.

UTLA members can **sign up here at** <https://www.mobilize.us/utla> to phonebank from home any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, and to join canvassing any Saturday or Sunday through June 5.

Here is a copy of the **presentation on this campaign** that we used at the area meeting, which may help you in meetings with your coworkers. <https://vision.utla.net/s/BD2-Presentation-Spring-2022.pptx>

## **2. Confirming Chapter Chairs in every UTLA Chapter for 2022-23**

Uncontested nominees have been notified via email that they must submit the **NOCCE** (Notice of Chapter Chair Election) form (which can include up to 3 Vice Chairs for chapters with over 80 members, and 2 Vice Chairs for all other chapters).

For contested Chapter Chairs (more than one self-nomination form submitted), the UTLA Chapter Chair Election Rules and process were sent to the current Chapter Chairs.

For unfilled Chapter Chair positions, the first person who submits the NOCCE form after April 8 will be the chapter leader.

## **3. Parent Outreach on the Beyond Recovery contract campaign**

In the build-up to our 2019 strike parents, students, and UTLA educators built the most powerful movement in public education that this city and this state had seen in decades. We know that our strike victories would never have happened without the support of parents and students. And we know that we would not have gotten that support if UTLA members had not actively reached out: leafleting, holding parent meetings, making phone calls, and more. We can do it again.

With the increase in state and federal funding being temporary, we have to move now to build that parent and community support.

There are two things we can do this month to start a dialogue with parents in every school: parent leafleting and parent chapter meetings.

### **PARENT LEAFLETING**

**We will have a leaflet ready for each chapter to pick up on May 4th (May 5th in Valley West) for morning or afternoon leafleting to parents at your school site any day in the week of May 9th.**

The leaflet will highlight the core issues of our Beyond Recovery Platform as an introduction to parents.

If you are able to have a good conversation, you should get that parent's contact info so we can start our list building. We will provide a contact sheet and there will also be a QR code on the leaflet that they can scan with their smartphone to get to an online contact sheet.

## **PARENT CHAPTER MEETING**

The leafleting is the start of our dialogue with parents. We will build on that with parent meetings at each chapter for deeper discussion and to build connections with parents that will be ongoing and two-way, as we did in the last contract campaign.

The meeting this month can be small or it can be large. Even a small meeting of parents can get the movement started at your school. You can work with your Chapter Action Team and other members at your school to reach out to parents that they have relationships with. If you have relationships with the PTA or other parent formations, you can reach out to them. You can hold it face to face or on Zoom.

**Here is a presentation you can use to help with the discussion of the Beyond Recovery Platform <https://vision.utla.net/s/Parent-Meeting-Presentation-Beyond-Recovery-Spring-2022.pptx>**

**The presentation provided here can help but what is most important is for you and your colleagues to have a discussion with parents, so you should be sure to make the meeting your own.**

**The presentation has a link to a google form where parents can provide their contact info.** The form sends their contact information to the UTLA data team so we can build a citywide list, but we will send the list for your chapter back out to you so you have it, which is most important. We may also send parents district-wide updates, and as we are doing our parent organizing as a coalition with Reclaim Our Schools Los Angeles, they will also get information from the coalition and be able to plug into citywide coalition work.

Again, the most important relationships are the ones you build at your chapter, so your follow-up with parents later in the campaign with

updates and for more dialogue will be critical. This list building will help us all do that.

**It will be important to report back when you have the meeting at this link: <https://vision.utla.net/pmreport>**

#### **4. Signing up all non-members in every chapter**

Updated chapter rosters have been emailed to every chapter email so that Chapter Chairs can download and print them. Non-members are in red.

You can **provide non-members with this link** to the membership application: <https://bitly.com/3vmXIVx>

You can **use these talking points** to help you with the conversation <https://bit.ly/memberrap>

We face both crisis and opportunity. The teacher shortage and desperate needs of educators are getting more attention in the media. There is support for major improvements, and we benefit from the strength that we built as a union in our last contract campaign and strike. LAUSD has received billions of dollars in new federal and state funding and is projected to close the year with unrestricted reserves in excess of \$3 billion. There is money for our demands. At the same time, we face an LAUSD that is already proposing the underfunding of our healthcare fund – which will lead to cost increases in the coming years if we don't fight back.

**As the school year moves towards a close, taking the 4 steps above is critical to our success as our contract campaign moves forward.**

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**Save the Date: UTLA 2022 Leadership Conference,  
August 5 - 7**

- The 2022 Leadership Conference will be held in-person on August 5 through 7 at the Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Please save the date and plan to attend this important event. If you haven't sent your Notice of [Chapter Chair Election](#), send it in as soon as possible so you can be eligible to attend the Leadership Conference.

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## **Talking points for chapter meetings**

### **Healthcare: LAUSD rejects funding for future years**

- All eight LAUSD employee unions continue to negotiate with LAUSD on healthcare coverage.

At the latest session last Monday, **LAUSD made a proposal that rejects increased funding for our healthcare in future years, which would force employees to eventually start paying part of the insurance premiums.**

The district claims to want to attract and retain educators in the face of the national shortage, but they want to continue funding healthcare at 2016 rates, intentionally ignoring runaway inflation and increasing healthcare costs.

UTLA and the other district unions have rejected this proposal. They are pushing for a new multi-year agreement that will maintain healthcare and cover increased costs in future years without employee contributions.

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## **LAUSD SCHOOL BOARD PRIMARY JUNE 7**

### **Elect an ally to the School Board**

- LAUSD School Board members ultimately will vote on our healthcare agreement.

**With LAUSD refusing to fully fund our healthcare, we need pro-educator School Board members we can count on.**

At-home ballots are dropping May 9. Now is the time to sign up to help elect Dr. Rocio Rivas — the ally we need on the LAUSD School Board.

**Sign up today — and ask a colleague to walk or phone with you.**

**Phone Banking**

*Via Zoom*

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4 - 8 pm

**Neighborhood Canvassing**

*In person every weekend*

Saturday 10 am - 2pm

Sunday 11 am - 3 pm

[Sign Up to Phone Bank](#)

[Sign Up to Canvas](#)

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## **Calendar change: Carvalho on wrong management path**

*Top-down decision angers educators and silences parents*

- With just over three months on the job, Carvalho has embraced a top-down approach, making announcements in the media of unilateral major policy changes without engaging educators or families.

Last Tuesday, he pushed a 2022-2023 calendar through the school board that would include three voluntary PD days to start next school year and four “accelerated learning” days that would be voluntary for both students and staff on October 19, December 7, March 15, and April 19. Regardless of the school board vote, the district is legally required to bargain over changes to the work year, and this calendar changes your work year. **We have made a demand to bargain over this calendar “plan” and will start that process when we launch new contract bargaining in May.**

Just as with Austin Beutner and Megan Reilly, we have made clear to Carvalho since he arrived in LA that extending the school year for

students and/or the work year for educators is a simplistic response to complex challenges deriving from the pandemic and that any changes will have to be bargained. **While he has the right to provide voluntary workdays, he scheduled them within the school year, thus extending the last day of work for UTLA members by another week. This must be bargained.**

Again, we're learning that this is how Carvalho operates: pushing policy changes through the media and paint yourself as a savior while skipping the essential steps of research, plan development, and real two-way engagement with educators, parents, students, and the community about how to affect real change and address complex problems.

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## Alliance educators unite for one-day strike

- Last Thursday, April 28, hundreds of educators at four Alliance College-Ready charter schools went on a [one-day Unfair Labor Practice strike](#) — a response to the Alliance Board of Directors, [headed by Lionsgate Motion Picture Chair Joe Drake](#), continued refusal to negotiate the educators' first contract after multiple legal orders by the Public Employment Relations Board to bargain.

“I’m here to ask the Alliance to follow the law and bargain with us so we can make needed improvements that will help retain skilled educators and ensure the highest quality education for our students,” said Alliance Burton Tech High School science teacher Jamie Garcia. “The legal delay tactics are unacceptable, and we deserve better.”

Educators chanted and walked the picket lines at their school sites and then joined together for a rally at a local park, followed by more picketing in the afternoon.

A supermajority of educators at the four Alliance charter schools (Alliance Burton Tech, Alliance Gertz-Merkin, Alliance Leichtman Levine Family Foundation ESAT, and Alliance Morgan McKinzie High School) [voted to unionize over three years ago](#) with UTLA. Since that time, educators have gone on multiple occasions to the Alliance Board of Directors to get the board to begin negotiations, but they have refused to bargain.

“We know that our schools work best when educators have a collective voice and the power to advocate for what their students need, like lower class sizes and more mental health supports,” said UTLA President Cecily Myart-Cruz. “The time is now for Alliance management to stop fighting their own educators and start negotiating.”

### [Support Alliance Educators](#)

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## **Calling on Carvalho to put action behind his tweet of support for Special Ed**

- Last month, Carvalho tweeted support for full funding of IDEA — an issue UTLA members have been organizing around for years.

Now he needs to put action behind his tweet and not continue simply pushing policy change through the media. The Fulfill the Promise coalition and UTLA call on Carvalho to ask Congress to pass the IDEA Full Funding Act and fully fund IDEA as it promised to do in 1975.

**We also call on Carvalho to agree to the proposals we will be making in contract negotiations to fund the immediate improvements to special education that LAUSD can afford right now.** Special education students are being underserved, and educators need more support.

*UTLA members: If you haven't written Congress in support of IDEA full funding, click the button below and help Fulfill the Promise to our special needs community.*

### [Support IDEA Full Funding Act](#)

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## **Nominations open for WHO awards**

- We Honor Ours (“WHO”) Awards are given annually to UTLA/NEA members who have given exemplary service to UTLA/NEA and its membership.

Award recipients determined by the UTLA/NEA “WHO” Awards Committee based on UTLA/NEA member nominations. The “WHO” State



Award is for current (non-retired) UTLA/NEA members who have given outstanding service in support of UTLA/NEA and its members at the state or national levels of UTLA, CTA, and NEA.

Please use [this fillable form](#) to make a nomination, save it, and send it to Vivian Vega at [vvega@utla.net](mailto:vvega@utla.net). In addition to the fillable form, please submit a written statement (minimum of 400 words) detailing why you believe the nominee is deserving of this recognition and send it along with the form to Vivian Vega.

- **The deadline for nominations is Monday, May 9, 2022, at 5 pm.**

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## UTLA calendar

**May 4:** House of Representatives meeting

**May 11:** Board of Directors meeting

**May 18:** Emergency Area meetings

**June 1:** House of Representatives meeting

### Other union meetings and events

**May 2:** Substitute teachers committee meeting

**May 9:** Stonewall Scholarship deadline to submit entries - [Flyer](#)

**May 16:** UTLA/NEA SCC meeting

**May 21:** UTLA Virtual Retirement Celebration