

Chapter Talking Points

September 6, 2021

Info for chapter leaders

Area meetings Thursday, September 9

- The first Area meetings of the 2021-2022 school year will be held this 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 send a representative from your site if you are unable to attend. Following are the Zoom links for all Areas.

- **REGISTRATION LINKS**

Register in advance for these meetings:

NORTH Sep 9, 2021 - 4:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ucOGsqz8qE9KH3ChL2Yv0VulKvKQXMoLH>

SOUTH Sep 9, 2021 - 4:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpfumurTovHtKQK8b01r1tQTPFxpGFq0Ro>

EAST Sep 9, 2021 - 4:30 PM

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lceqvqTsqEty4NfysDqpXbwZ_BIT6ExZQ

WEST Sep 9, 2021 - 4:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUocuGtqjovGtTFMwSCf9OjU3qWWoRLYDLi>

HARBOR Sep 9, 2021 - 4:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEqf-igqjksGdAOvru5PFuK9xf6lrCRIMu9>

VALLEY EAST Sep 9, 2021 - 4:00 PM

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctdeGrrjMtE9Ufnw2aW290k_g30rVotT2

VALLEY WEST Sep 9, 2021 - 4:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/91895194958?pwd=ZlVhZXBGdXViQ2pQbG1zd3BOTjVkdz09>

CENTRAL Sep 9, 2021 - 04:30 PM

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAsduuopjMtG9dHKYy_RApLJdY4ALuA3hz7

EEC Sep 9, 2021 - 6:00 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/91564069965?pwd=elgwa0tuUmR1VINOcHNPV0FpaVhLdz09>

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 [PowerPoint 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. 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](#)

Talking points for chapter meetings

Bargaining update

- UTLA was back in bargaining with the district last Thursday, after filing an Unfair Labor Practice charge over Megan Reilly's unlawful unilateral implementation of the district's Continuity of Learning proposal without a bargaining agreement.

Today we presented new proposals on, among other issues, strengthened safety

protocols and the Continuity of Learning program.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Our safety proposals reflect what staff and students have experienced with the full reopening of schools and the need to solidify safety protocols, some of which were in previous agreements, in recognition of the Delta variant's increased transmissibility and potential for rapid spread. UTLA's proposals include:

—Weekly testing of all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, through at least December 31, 2021.

—Classroom teachers must be notified in writing when a student in their classroom is required to quarantine.

—Masks and ventilation protocols (MERV filters) stay in place until at least December 31, 2021 (the current agreement has a provision that either party could ask to revisit those protocols in the fall).

—Any employee or student, regardless of vaccination status, who has been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 positive case must quarantine. LAUSD implemented a new policy in late August that allows asymptomatic vaccinated staff and students to stay in school, which is an ill-advised softening of protocols.

—The district shall provide a written checklist of required actions for when a student or employee tests positive for COVID 19.

—Withdrawal of our proposal for a vaccine requirement for eligible students. However, outside of bargaining, we continue to press LAUSD to take this important step as Culver City Unified has.

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

- Educators have deep and divergent feelings about teaching in-person students and providing quarantined students with virtual access to their classrooms at the same time. Perfect solutions during this prolonged pandemic continue to be elusive, but this would be the first time throughout the pandemic that these students would have no access to live engagement with their teachers if we don't virtually allow students in. That would not be healthy after the trauma of the last 18 months. The ability for staff and students to quarantine is a linchpin of our safety protocols, which means we must provide quarantining students with

reasonable access to instruction **and** protect the rights of our members. UTLA's proposals include:

—Language to protect teachers from being held responsible for technology issues (at school or in the student's home) and language ensuring that under no circumstances can the district, students, or parents record a teacher providing instruction without approval of the teacher.

—Live virtual instruction for quarantined students can't be considered as part of an educator's evaluation.

—Classroom teachers make the decision whether to provide access to their class through live streaming or through direct zoom engagement.

SALARY

- We continue to press for a 6% ongoing salary increase, a \$2,500 one-time stipend for all full-time bargaining unit members, and a \$2,000 technology stipend for all bargaining unit members who worked at least 90 days during the 2020-2021 school year. LAUSD's proposal is for a 4% ongoing salary increase and \$2,250 in stipends.
- Last week we proposed a \$5,000 one-time stipend for all school nurses to help retain these staff members who are critical to keeping our learning communities safe and healthy, but who are difficult to attract and retain.
- Substitute educators required to quarantine during the 2021-2022 school year will have the number of service days (100) required to qualify for healthcare in 2022-2023 reduced by the number of required quarantine days.

EVALUATION & BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

- UTLA and LAUSD are close to an agreement on suspending educator evaluations for permanent teachers who have not received a below standard evaluation in the last five years.
- UTLA is proposing that all required meetings with parents & guardians, including Back to School Nights and IEPs, be conducted virtually.

A link to UTLA's proposal is below. The next bargaining session is scheduled for Friday, September 10.

School Board to vote on voucher funding scheme on September 14

- In just under two weeks, the LAUSD School Board will be voting on a monumental change in how schools are funded called Student-Centered Funding, aka the district's internal voucher scheme. The scheme would force schools to compete for students and would undermine Title I funding protections for our most vulnerable learners.

“Student Centered Funding” ravaged Chicago’s schools:

—Chicago’s schools went from having 460 librarians in 2012 down to only 120 in 2020.

—Budgets were cut in schools with poverty rates as high as 75%-90%.

—Schools in Black and Brown communities lost their arts, music, and vital resources.

—Many schools in low-income black and brown neighborhoods were forced to close.

- **TAKE ACTION to tell the LAUSD School Board to VOTE NO on Student-Centered Funding.** If School Board members hear from enough educators and LAUSD families, we can get the votes we need to defeat this funding scheme. **Send an email to the School Board thru this link:** <https://wearepublicschools.org/student-centered-funding>

No on Recall: Get in your ballots

- The effort to recall Governor Newsom is funded by anti-union billionaires who want to roll back decades of progress and defund public education, with the goal of putting forth a school voucher initiative in 2022.

VOTE NO by September 14

- **Mail-in ballots**

Ballots were mailed to every registered voter in mid-August. If you did not receive a ballot, or your ballot was lost or destroyed, you can request a replacement until September 7 from the LA county elections office.

There are multiple options on how to return your ballot:

- By mail, no postage is necessary, must be postmarked by election day
 - At any official Ballot Drop Box
 - At any Vote Center in LA County
- **Vote in person**
From September 4 through 14, you can vote in person at one of LA County's Vote Centers from 10 AM - 7 PM from September 4 - 13 and until 8 PM on Election Day, September 14.
 - Members with questions about vote centers, ballot drop boxes, or other vote info are encouraged to go to lavote.net

UTLA calendar

Sept. 9: Area meetings

Sept. 23: House of Representatives meeting

Sept. 30: Board of Directors meeting