



# Chapter Talking Points

*October 8, 2019*

## **Info for chapter leaders**

### **Working the Area meeting materials**

- **SCHOOL BOARD:** Start working the rosters handed out at the October 2 Area meeting to identify members who are registered to vote in board districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 (marked in last column) and encourage them to sign the petition to commit to vote for candidates. This is an essential first step in building GOTV and organizing to win.
- **MEMBER ENGAGEMENT ON BERNIE SANDERS:** We want unprecedented member engagement in the consideration of endorsing Senator Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary. Use the materials handed out at the Area meeting to engage your members in a discussion (Bernie Sanders education plan, chapter leader FAQ, candidate comparison, Why a Bernie Endorsement Matters). At the November 13 Area meetings, there will be a vote on whether or not UTLA should endorse Sanders in the primary. This is an advisory vote to give guidance to the UTLA House of Reps, which makes the final decision under our constitution and bylaws.
- **CHAPTER POWER CHECKLIST:** A new link will be sent to chapter leaders soon for an updated Chapter Power Checklist.

### **Deadline for testing waivers is October 14**

- The deadline to submit an Alternative Assessment Waiver Request to your school's LD is October 14. More information on the waiver as well as which assessments are required and which are optional can be found in LAUSD Memo 6700.3.

### **Organizing meeting on October 17 for Inclusion Pilot Program schools**

- If your school is one of the identified schools participating in the Inclusion Pilot Program, be sure to join us on October 17 for a day of organizing and planning. Chapter chairs should RSVP to Vivian Vega at [vvega@utla.net](mailto:vvega@utla.net) by Tuesday, October 8.

### **Chapter Leader Training on November 2**

- The first of four full-day trainings for chapter leaders is scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Module 1 will focus on how to enforce key provisions of the contract and will cover basic issues such as representing members during disciplinary conferences and the Matrix process. RSVP, with the location you will be attending, to Evy Vaughn at [evaughn@utla.net](mailto:evaughn@utla.net).
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## **Talking points for chapter meetings**

### **LAUSD finally going after charter operators for unused space**

- LAUSD is finally making a move to collect close to \$7 million owed by 41 charter operators for unused co-located space they took from our schools. UTLA had set this in motion a few years ago through meetings with then-Superintendent Michelle King and holding protests at LAUSD Board meetings demanding that these fines be enforced and collected. LAUSD had not been collecting the over-allocation fees and had not penalized a charter school since 2012. This significant step toward charter control and accountability would not have happened without the leadership of Jackie Goldberg, the candidate we endorsed and fought for.

### **Getting the jump on LAUSD School Board races**

- We are starting our LAUSD School Board election campaigns earlier than ever because the board majority hangs in the balance. None of the seats held by people elected with privatizer money are on the ballot, which means we must win all four seats to have the team we need to protect public education. There's tons of energy behind our slate—George McKenna, Scott Schmerelson, Jackie Goldberg, and Patricia Castellanos—all of whom were endorsed overwhelmingly by the UTLA House of Reps.
- Chapter chairs have been given rosters that will let members know if they are registered to vote in one of the four board districts on the ballot. Check the roster and then sign the School Board petition and say YES to voting for one of these four candidates.

### **Most schools in compliance with new class-size caps**

- Preliminary results from the Chapter Power Checklist show that 74% of chapters reported no class-size cap violations (percentage likely higher post-Norm Day), and 81% of chapters reported having Local School Leadership Councils, which is crucial to exerting our school site power. We will be doing another round of the Chapter Power Checklist soon. Data is incredibly important for our next steps.
- On class size, because of our strike, the district has had to function with real caps for the first time in a generation. The vast majority of schools are in compliance with the new caps at this point. While we have been approached about waivers to the caps at a handful of schools, we have not signed any waivers. The Class Size Task Force met with the district on Friday to get more info and raw numbers and to discuss combos/splits and other issues that have emerged.

### **Member engagement on possible Bernie Sanders endorsement**

**[CHAPTER LEADERS: Use materials to guide discussion: Bernie Sanders education plan, chapter leader FAQ, candidate comparison, Why a Bernie Endorsement Matters]**

- In recognition of the unique moment we are in—coming off our historic strike and the national voice it gave us—UTLA is engaging members in a first-ever process to consider endorsing Bernie Sanders for U.S. President for the Democratic primary.
- Public education and unions have faced bipartisan attacks for 30 years. Sanders is the first major candidate for president in decades who has taken a tough stance against privatization and the billionaires who fund it. His Thurgood Marshall Plan for Education aligns with our New Deal in its focus on tripling federal education funding, raising teacher pay, placing a moratorium on charters, and more.
- Many of the other candidates have sparse or no education platforms. With only four months before the first primary, now is the time to use our voice to uplift the education policies that educators support.

### **Contract reopeners on salary, special ed, and class size**

- Under our contract agreement, we can reopen and bargain on three areas beginning in January 2020. The UTLA House of Reps has voted that the areas for reopeners will be salary (including bilingual differentials), special education (including Health and Human Services staffing), and class size.
- We are organizing with the other LAUSD employee unions and building a united strategy for healthcare bargaining. The current healthcare agreement expires December 2020.

### **We stand with Chicago**

- UTLA stands in solidarity with the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) and SEIU Local 73 in the wake of their strike authorization votes after months of fruitless contract negotiations. Ninety-four percent of CTU members voted in favor of a strike, and educators have set a strike date of October 17. Read the UTLA statement of solidarity at [utla.net](http://utla.net).

### **Special Education bargaining**

- After stalling for two sessions and facing mounting pressure from UTLA, LAUSD finally showed progress at the bargaining table for the special education Inclusion Pilot Program, but there are outstanding issues we will continue to fight for. Our next bargaining session is scheduled for October 16. Our latest proposal from October 4 is posted at [utla.net](http://utla.net) under Current Bargaining.

### **Late start school bill undermines local control**

- A bill on Governor Newsom's desk would mandate that public middle schools start after 8 a.m. and high schools start after 8:30 a.m. SB 328 (Portantino) may be well-intentioned but it could have unintended consequences on local communities and working families. Many factors influence a school district's decision in determining start times, including school busing, access to facilities for extracurricular activities, or access to before- and after-school care. Mandating a minimum start time for schools would ignore those local factors and undermine our site leadership councils. Sign the petition and share your concerns about SB 328 with Governor Newsom at <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/governor-newsom-keep-school-start-times-a-local-matter/>.

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## UTLA action calendar

**October 12:** National Day of Action for Immigrant Rights. Info on local event at [tinyurl.com/closethecampsla](http://tinyurl.com/closethecampsla).

**October 12:** UTLA Pre-Retirement Workshop. Info at [utla.net](http://utla.net) (calendar)

**October 16:** Special Education bargaining with LAUSD

**November 2:** Chapter leader training

**November 13:**Area Meetings