



# Chapter Talking Points

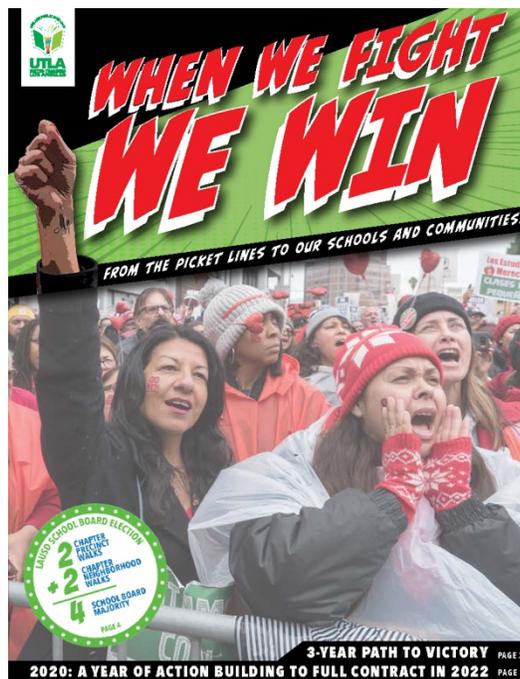
January 21, 2020

## Info for chapter leaders

### NEW HANDOUT AT AREA MEETING

#### Our Three-Year Path to Victory

- **NEW HANDOUT AT AREA MEETING:** With a broad outline of the path ahead of us over the next three years, this piece is designed to spark dialogue among members about how we win in 2020 and build for full contract bargaining in 2022. This timeline is crucial to talk about now as we initiate reopener bargaining this month, and we must see that bargaining in the context of more re-opener bargaining in 2021 and full contract bargaining in 2022. Moreover, we must discuss this so that every member understands that the School Board elections we are working on now will affect everything headed to 2021 and 2022 regarding our healthcare, salary, class size, staffing, etc. Everyone's insights are crucial to developing a plan out of this Three-Year Path document. Be sure to attend the Area meeting this week, on Wednesday, January 22, to pick up copies for your members of the document and other organizing tools, including picket signs and parent flyers for our leafleting action on January 30.



#### School Board & SCF petitions

- Keep working the School Board and Schools and Communities First petitions. Send the School Board petitions in on a regular basis and bring the SCF petitions to the January 22 Area meeting.

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## Talking points for chapter meetings

#### Fuel dump by Delta

- UTLA is horrified by the dumping of airline fuel on neighborhoods in Southeast and South LA. These great communities, the residents of which have contributed so much to Los Angeles and surrounding cities, have historically borne the brunt of many environmentally racist policies and practices. The culprits of this environmental racism have so often been large corporations,

polluting the air or leaving development sites as hazards, and more. In this case, Delta must be held accountable and must make right the damage caused not only to students' and school staff's health, and not only to school facilities, but also to health impacts and damages across these communities that have deeply affected the families of our students and their friends.

- There have been significant impacts on many different schools and the neighborhoods surrounding those schools, including San Gabriel, Park, Tweedy, Jordan, Graham, and 93rd Street. UTLA has been to the schools affected by the fuel dump and has been working closely with UTLA leaders at each site and UTLA area leadership. We have attended community meetings about the issue and are offering legal advice to our affected members.
- We have been working with the district to ensure that additional cleaning, health, and mental health staff are available for these schools on an ongoing basis. UTLA is working with local officials, including Jackie Goldberg and Maxine Waters, and officials at the federal level to ensure that a full investigation occurs immediately to ensure accountability is taken.

## **Let's lock down 4 School Board victories**

**2 + 2 = 4**

**2 chapter precinct walks + 2 chapter neighborhood walks = 4 Board members elected**

- To push our four School Board candidates to victory on March 3, every school needs to sign up for 2 chapter precinct walks on the weekends and 2 chapter neighborhood walks on Thursdays. It's what we call 2 + 2 = 4. Two chapter precinct walks + two chapter neighborhood walks equals four School Board members elected — a board majority.

## **Why we fight for our School Board team**

### **BD-7 Patricia Castellanos**

- Founding member of Reclaim Our Schools LA, the coalition that protested outside Monica Garcia and Austin Beutner's houses during the strike
- LAUSD parent
- Community organizer
- Led campaign coalition for clean and safe ports and reducing truck emissions in surrounding neighborhoods

### **BD-5 Jackie Goldberg**

- Huge supporter of our strike
- Authored and spearheaded a resolution to force co-locating charters to pay millions of dollars owed to our neighborhood schools
- Protected our public schools by leading the effort to defeat Nick Melvoin's attempt to create Yelp-like ratings for public schools
- Champion for replacing run-down temporary bungalows with green space for our kids

### **BD-3 Scott Schmerelson**

- Huge supporter of our strike
- Made sure that LAUSD provided support for our kids and communities during the fires.

- Authored and spearheaded effort to get a gun safety resolution passed at the school board
- Uncovered Austin Beutner’s scheme to pay secret consultants to create a “portfolio district”

#### **BD-1 George McKenna**

- Former teacher and principal in LAUSD
- Has voted in support of every UTLA bargaining agreement since elected, along with two healthcare agreements
- Reduced student suspension rates across the district
- Oversaw increased graduation and college admission rates, particularly for low-income and historically underachieving students

### **Contract reopeners begin January 29—citywide leafleting on January 30**

- On January 29, we begin contract reopener bargaining with LAUSD, focusing on issues that need the most attention before full contract bargaining in 2022.
- Our demands:
  - Compensation increases, including an across-the-board salary increase, expanded bilingual differentials, and greater pay equity for Adult Ed, Early Ed, and CTE teachers
  - Special Education supports, including lower caseloads and more school psychologists
  - Increased HHS staffing, such as PSWs and PSAs, crucial to student mental health and school discipline plans
- On January 30, we’ll hold school-site leafleting to reach out to the community about our proposals, the LAUSD School Board elections, and the critical Schools and Communities First funding measure.

### **UTLA members to elect officers and board**

- Next month, UTLA members will be voting for UTLA citywide officers and members of the UTLA Board of Directors. Together, the officers and board work with UTLA staff to carry out the mandates of the UTLA House of Representatives and help oversee the operation of the union.
- Election ballots for this first round of voting will be mailed to members’ home addresses on February 3 and are due back by February 28. Ballots will not be sent to school sites.
- Learn more about the candidates at [utla.elections.org](http://utla.elections.org), which has links to candidates’ social media pages, flyers, and for officer candidates only, Q&A videos.

### **“In a Public School Near You...”: UTLA’s new Public Awareness campaign**

- Look this week for a new round of UTLA digital ads and billboards as part of our campaign to build support for public education and our contract reopener demands. The ads uplift the diverse professions of UTLA members who provide essential services to our students, including Early Childhood educators, PSAs, PSWs, teacher librarians, school nurses, Special Education

teachers, Adult Education instructors, and dance educators. Check out the faces and stories at [www.wearepublicschools.org](http://www.wearepublicschools.org).

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## **Upcoming events**

### **Diane Ravitch in conversation with Alex Caputo-Pearl on February 9**

- Diane Ravitch will be talking about her new book and signing copies on Sunday, February 9, at 3:30 pm at the Central Library in downtown LA. In “Slaying Goliath: The Passionate Resistance to Privatization and the Fight to Save America’s Public Schools, Ravitch fights back against “disruptors” who wish to privatize schools and she celebrates the grassroots efforts of parents, teachers, students, and communities that have rallied to keep their public schools alive. **Space limited. Reserve your seat at <https://ifla.org/event/diane-ravitch>.**

### **Jane McAlevey book signing & talk on our strike on January 23**

- Jane McAlevey, in conversation with Alex Caputo-Pearl, will discuss her new book, “A Collective Bargain: Unions, Organizing, and the Fight for Democracy,” which features a detailed chapter on the importance of our 2019 strike. Event is from 6 pm to 8 pm on January 23 at St. Paul’s Commons Retreat & Conference Center, 840 Echo Park Avenue in LA. Free admission. **To RSVP or for more information, contact Edgar Ortiz at [eortiz@laane.org](mailto:eortiz@laane.org) or 213-977-9400 x120. Flyer here.**

### **Conference for Racial and Social Justice on February 1**

- The UTLA Racial Justice Task Force is sponsoring a conference, “Teaching for Black Lives in Segregated Times,” for UTLA members on February 1, at UTLA, from 8 am to 3 pm. Patrisse Cullors, co-founders of Black Lives Matter, and Stacy Davis Gates, VP of the Chicago Teachers Union, will speak. **Go to <http://bitly.com/UTLAConference> to register.**

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## **UTLA action calendar**

**January 22:** Area meetings

**January 23:** Jane McAlevey book signing & union talk

**January 27:** New UTLA media campaign launches

**January 29:** Contract reopeners begin with LAUSD

**January 29:** PACE meeting

**January 30:** School-site leafleting

**January 30:** Student Debt Clinic at UTLA/AFT meeting

**February 1:** Conference for Racial and Social Justice

**February 5:** Board of Directors meeting

**February 9:** Diane Ravitch book event

**February 12:** House of Reps meeting

Member communication not authorized by a candidate or a committee controlled by a candidate.