



Chapter Talking Points

March 10, 2020

Info for chapter leaders

Area Meetings next Wednesday, March 18

- Remember there is an Area meeting next Wednesday. We will be discussing the Schools and Communities First initiative, the 3-year Path to Victory document, and local area issues. Please plan to attend or send a representative.

Talking points for chapter meetings

Our ground game overcomes the charter lobby millions in LAUSD election

- In spite of the millions spent by the charter lobby and billionaire privatizers and the barrage of negative ads, UTLA candidates prevailed in the LAUSD School Board races: Jackie Goldberg and George McKenna easily won reelection to their seats, and Scott Schmerelson and Patricia Castellanos placed first and will advance to the November 2020 runoffs.
- Hundreds of UTLA members, parents and community allies reached more than 20,000 voters. Our member texting campaign reached an additional 100,000 people. The charter lobby's hateful attack ads can't match the impact of a teacher at the door, talking one-on-one to a voter.

Coronavirus update

- The situation regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) is fluid and fast-changing. The outbreak has led to the closure of individual schools or entire districts in some parts of the country, but there are no closures in the Los Angeles area as of now. Of the 14 cases of individuals who have been diagnosed with the virus in the LA area, none has any known connection to LAUSD schools.

LAUSD has issued communications regarding precautionary measures that the district is taking, specifically:

- restroom fixtures are to be sanitized twice a day.
- high-touch areas, such as door knobs, stair rails, playground equipment, and locker rooms, are to be sanitized daily.
- In addition, all schools must be provided with soap and hand sanitizer, and staff and students should not be sanctioned for taking sick leave. LAUSD has suspended attendance campaigns and incentives so as not to encourage ill children to attend school.

If any of the above is not happening at your school site, please email UTLA officer Alex Orozco at aorozco@utla.net.

UTLA is in daily contact with LAUSD officials, and there will be a followup meeting with LAUSD today to continue the discussion of contingency plans if a school closure is necessary. LAUSD has mentioned online and distant learning as ways to continue student education in the event of a closure, but at this stage these are just concepts and not actual plans. A lot more discussion is necessary before moving forward, and the same goes for extending the school year.

We have heard that today's staff meetings will cover coronavirus issues. If principals or school leaders present plans for online learning or extending the school year as a "done deal," please let UTLA officer Alex Orozco (aorozco@utla.net) know as soon as possible.

We've created a [new web page](#) for breaking developments and will update you as more information becomes available (www.utla.net).

- **Everyone should continue following basic protective measures, including:**
 - **Wash your hands frequently.** Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
 - **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.**
 - **Practice respiratory hygiene.** Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
 - **If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early.** Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance.

Community Schools Forum on March 28

- The application process to become one of the 30 Community Schools that were agreed upon as part of the strike settlement has begun. There will be a forum to provide expert support on Saturday, March 28, at UTLA, from 9 am to 1 pm. Interpretation and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to jlam@utla.net.
 - Applications available – 3-5-2020
 - Community Schools Forum (hear from experts & get support on application) – 3-28-2020
 - Community Schools Application due – 4-27-2020
 - Schools notified if they are designated a Community School in Cohort 2 – 5-8-2020

UTLA action calendar

March 11: PACE and Committees

March 18: Area Meetings (special meeting)

March 25: House of Reps and Committees

March 28: Community Schools Forum