

Chapter Talking Points

December 14, 2020

Info for chapter leaders

Area Meetings on December 16

- Our next scheduled Area Meetings are December 16. We will discuss the latest developments in bargaining and distance learning issues. Please be sure to join this meeting or have a representative from your site attend.
- The Zoom link to join your Area meeting was sent last Friday, December 11 and can also be found at www.utla.net/events/virtual-area-meeting-3

Overtesting push-back

- Non-mandated assessments are negatively impacting our students and are absolutely unnecessary and ineffective during a global pandemic. We are pushing back on unnecessary tests that are not state mandated. At this week's Area meetings, we will discuss strategies and tools for holding a parent meeting to engage our parents in this important pushback against unnecessary assessments.

Citywide chapter leader meeting on January 8

- Save the date for a citywide chapter leader meeting on Friday, January 8. It is important that you or your representative join this meeting. We must all stay united and well informed during this time of uncertainties and rapidly changing circumstances. More details to come.

Talking points for chapter meetings

Bargaining update

- In light of the accelerating COVID-19 surge, our current focus in bargaining is an extension of the 2020-2021 Distance Learning Sideletter for the second semester. The current agreement expires on December 31, and our goal is to ensure stability.

An extension may include some minor modifications to the daily teacher schedules, with increased office hours for connecting with students and families and additional synchronous instructional minutes on Mondays, but we're pushing to ensure that such modifications fall within the current 360- minute workday for teachers and that the rest of the agreement remain intact. In the face of the upheaval we are all dealing with, educators, students, and families need stability.

- From the beginning of the pandemic, we have prioritized the health and safety of our students, families and communities during school campus closures. A key part of that has been a consistent demand that a robust testing and tracing program. LAUSD has done the right thing and responded with a testing program accessible to our students and communities. As part of an extension of the current distance learning agreement, the district is proposing that nurses be required to physically provide services in the testing program, effective January 11. Cecily Myart-Cruz and the bargaining team met with roughly 200 school nurses on Saturday to explain the proposal and hear concerns, and we will work in bargaining to ensure that the working conditions continue to be safe (no school nurses have tested positive as a result of voluntary participation thus far), and that related workload issues are addressed in a fair and equitable manner. Our school nurses are needed for the COVID 19 testing program to work, and a robust testing program is essential for the health and safety procedures required to contain the virus. We will have more information soon. We continue to bargain with LAUSD on Monday.
- We are also committed to bargain the details of hybrid schedules so as to be prepared if a physical return becomes possible at some point during the second semester, which is far from certain.

Educators for Georgia phone bank on December 17

- The CA Labor Fed is holding an "Educators for Georgia" phone bank on December 17, from 3pm-6pm, A short training before and a brief debrief after will be included. If you want to volunteer, go to the registration link <https://calaborfed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtduyqrzwrG9KMAM3UifTY2H6Mm48s9Loc>

Election for delegates to the 2021 CFT Convention

- Download [this fillable form](#) if you wish to nominate yourself as a delegate to the 2021 CFT Convention to be held online from March 26 – 28. The form must be submitted by Wednesday, January 13 to UTLA/AFT Vice President Juan Ramirez at jramirez@utla.net.
- Nominations will not be taken from the floor. Elections will be held at the general membership meeting on Thursday, January 21 at 6pm on Zoom. Contact Rosa Beasley at rbeasley@utla.net if you have any questions.