

# Chapter Talking Points

*June 2, 2020*

## The Fight for Black Lives

- The murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor are only the latest outrages in a society that discounts Black lives. As communities of color die at higher rates from COVID-19 and Black people die at the hands of police, we grapple every day with the fallout of systemic racism. Our fight for social and racial justice defines UTLA as a progressive union. The only way forward is for oppression and white supremacy to be acknowledged and dismantled.
- In the coming days we will talk more about these murders and how we fight for a more just society.

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## Info for chapter leaders

### New Rosters are available

- Updated rosters are now accessible through the special email set up for this purpose for your site. Instructions and the link to get your school's roster were sent on May 19. These rosters reflect everyone who has signed the [Classrooms and Communities Over Cuts petition](#) as of Tuesday, May 26. Use the rosters to identify and communicate with members who have not signed the petition.

If you did not receive instructions on how to access your rosters, or have any issues logging in please visit <https://www.utla.net/resources/tech-help-request-form>

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### Hold a chapter meeting to discuss school reopening

- Call a chapter meeting before June 4 to discuss what a safe, equitable, and appropriate school reopening should look like at your school. A survey on school reopening will be sent to each member later this week and it is important to discuss these issues as a group to

share ideas and raise concerns specific to your school site before taking the survey. Answers to the survey will be used to inform our bargaining on reopening. Be sure to include the following topics in your discussion:

1. health and safety
  2. equity and racial justice
  3. needs of families and community
  4. educator workload
  5. needs of the whole child
- After your meeting, report feedback from members at <http://bit.ly/chaptermeetingreport>. There will be further discussions on this topic at the June 17 Area meeting.
  - If you haven't done so yet, use this opportunity to discuss our fight-back against budget cuts and the need to defeat the false narrative that layoffs and deep reductions are inevitable. We encourage you to use the [Chapter Meeting Powerpoint](#) to guide this discussion.

## **PETITION TOOLS**

- [Budget fight flyer](#)
- [Chapter Meeting PowerPoint](#) (file will download)
- [Classrooms and Communities Over Cuts petition link](#)
- [Tracking form](#)

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## **Area meetings, Wednesday, June 17**

- Mark your calendar now for the June 17 Area meeting. It is important that we stay connected to discuss any issues that come up regarding bargaining, summer school, school reopening and more. It is especially important to fuel our resolve and fully engage in the fight against budget cuts to our schools and our communities. Plan to attend and invite your CAT team.

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## **Save the Date - Virtual Leadership Conference in August**

- The Annual Leadership Conference for Chapter Chairs and UTLA leaders is scheduled for August 4, 5, and 6 this year and will be held virtually. Mark your calendars for this important

event. This year more than ever, we need to huddle together as a group to strategize and chart the course for the school year ahead. More information coming soon.

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## **Talking points for chapter meetings**

### **Reopening Survey: We Need Your Input**

- The reopening of our schools must be bargained with your union. UTLA insists that any reopening must be based on public health and science and have the health of students, members, and the community as the number one principle. As a UTLA member, your opinion will be part of that bargaining. We are asking chapter chairs to hold a meeting to collectively discuss the reopening, and to include the health and safety of the whole child, families and communities in the exchange.
  - Later this week, an individual member survey will be sent to members via email. This survey will help shape bargaining on school reopening. In your discussions as a group as well as in your individual surveys focus not only on a safe reopening but also on improving our schools. Talk about the needs of students, families, and the community. Let health and safety, racial and social justice be your guide in these discussions.
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### **For a Safe Reopening We Have to Defeat Budget Cuts**

- It would be impossible to reopen schools safely if budget cuts are implemented. Educators want to be back with their students, but we cannot go back if it is unsafe or without improving our schools. We cannot go back to the status quo of systemic poverty and limited opportunities for our students.
- UTLA, together with seven other locals, is writing a letter to Governor Newsom and Superintendent Thurmond asking them to cancel the proposed \$13 billion in cuts to education, to support the Schools and Communities First initiative and other revenue measures, to stop the approval of new charter schools until after schools reopen, and finally, to stop charter co-locations at this time when schools need as much space as possible to ensure a safe reopening.

## **BUDGET FIGHT ACTIONS**

- Contact your chapter chair to sign the [Classrooms and Communities Over Cuts petition](#) and commit to the fight against all budget cuts and layoffs.
  - Tell your legislator to pass a state budget with no cuts to education. Call 1-855-977-1770 to speak to your legislator.
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## **Virtual Chapter Chair and Special Category Chapter Chair elections**

- Confirmation emails will be sent early this week to Chapter Chairs who were the only ones who self nominated for their site and are therefore considered elected, but have not yet turned in the Notice of Chapter Chair election (NOCCE).
- UTLA continues to accept the Notice of Chapter Chair Election (NOCCE) form for chapter chair, vice-chairs (each school can have up to two vice-chairs) and a co-chair (for schools with over 80 members) for schools who have not yet filled these positions. If there is a contested chapter chair election, an election committee will use the Survey Monkey instructions to conduct an election. After the election, the NOCCE form is emailed to UTLA.
- For citywide special category, substitutes and itinerant members can submit the Special Category Election Form until the positions are filled. The member categories in bold on the self-nomination form can have multiple chapter chairs. If you have any questions contact Arlene Inouye, UTLA Secretary [ainouye@utla.net](mailto:ainouye@utla.net), 213.368.6218.
- [Notice of Chapter Chair Elections](#)
- [Virtual Special Category Instructions](#)
- [Special Category Chapter Chair Election Form 2020-21](#)

Return to Princess Sykes via email at [psykes@utla.net](mailto:psykes@utla.net).

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## **Closing out classrooms**

- You have until June 30 to pick up your instructional and personal belongings. If you are in one of the vulnerable categories, chapter chairs and administrators will work together to come to an alternative arrangement so you don't have to go back into the building. Any work

between now and June 15, including cleaning up your classroom, falls into the 240 minute rule.

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## **UPDATED FAQs**

We are updating our FAQ pages regularly. Check often for new info.

- [Members-FAQ](#)
  - [HHS-FAQ](#)
  - [Substitutes-FAQ](#)
  - [Parents-FAQ](#)
  - [Parents \(Spanish\)-FAQ](#)
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## **UTLA calendar**

**June 17:** Area meeting

**Aug 4 - 6:** Virtual Leadership Conference