

# Chapter Talking Points

May 19, 2020

## Info for chapter leaders

### **Critical: Hold a chapter meeting this week on budget fight**

Having a chapter meeting this week is critical to our fight-back against budget cuts and to defeat the false narrative that layoffs and deep reductions are inevitable. Key points are below in the Talking Points for Chapter Meetings but we encourage you to use the [Chapter Meeting Powerpoint](#) to guide your discussion.

**AFTER YOU HOLD YOUR MEETING:** Submit a report on the meeting at <https://bit.ly/chaptermeetingreport>.

**ROSTER SYSTEM COMING SOON:** The new electronic system to give chapterchairs access to your rosters should be set up soon. Look for an email this week (going to your non-LAUSD email address) on how to log in.

### **PETITION TOOLS**

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

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### **Matrix deadline is May 22**

- Staffing selections should be completed by May 22, per contract language that says teachers should be notified of their tentative assignments no later than 21 calendar days prior to the teacher's last work day. If there are issues, follow the Dispute Resolution process within the prescribed timelines outlined in the [Matrix Checklist](#) for Chapter Chairs.
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## Bargaining issues

- **AUTONOMOUS SCHOOLS:** Due to the school closures, bargaining for the Autonomous Schools agreements (pertaining to Pilot, ESBMM, and LIS schools) has been postponed until schools reopen. All agreements pertaining to Autonomous Schools (Belmont Pilot School Agreement, LA Pilot School Agreement, ESBMM Agreement, LSSEI Agreement) shall remain in effect for the 2020-2021 school year and until a new agreement is reached.
  - **SPECIAL ED MOU:** The district and UTLA have agreed to extend the inclusion practices MOU for an additional year. The [MOU language won in October](#) will continue to prevail and schools that were protected under the MOU should continue to enforce it as such.
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## Training on building CATS

- There will be trainings by area this week on how to organize and use ChapterAction Teams (CATs). See last week's emails for info or contact your Area leadership.
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## Virtual UTLA House meeting Wednesday

- Please share with your members who belong to the House of Reps that the final HOR meeting of the school year will be this Wednesday, May 20, at 6:30 pm (note later time). HOR members need to register prior to the meeting, and all motions are due by 5 pm (send to [psykes@utla.net](mailto:psykes@utla.net)). Info and Zoom link went out last Friday. If a House member didn't get the email, have them contact Arlene Inouye at [ainouye@utla.net](mailto:ainouye@utla.net).
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## Chapter chair elections

- More than half of our school sites have turned in self-nomination forms for chapter chair, which is great news. For sites with uncontested elections, we have sent out an email congratulating the 2020-21 chapter chairs and a reminder to fill out the [Notice of Chapter Chair Election form](#) (NOCCE), including up to two vice chairs and a co-chair if applicable (at school sites with more than 80 members).
- We have also notified the chapters that need to hold an election for chapter chair, following the [virtual election rules](#). The deadline is May 22 to turn in the NOCCE form with the elected chapter chair, vice chairs, and co chair, if applicable.
- Self-nominated Special Category chapter chairs will be accepted until the positions are filled. More info [here](#).

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## **Talking points for chapter meetings**

### **End-of-year protocols**

- The district has put out the [Reminders for Closing the School Year policy memo](#) related to end-of-school-year issues, including guidelines for packing up classrooms, textbook collection, and closing out cums and final progress reports.
- As LAUSD developed this memo, UTLA argued for as much time as possible to be given to complete this work, for adherence to safety guidelines consistent with direction from public health authorities, and for alternative arrangements to be available for high-risk staff. For members unable to come to school and participate in closing protocols because of a high-risk factor (including childcare issues), the policy calls for chapter chairs and administrators to work together to come to an alternative arrangement. If educators need assistance mailing out the final progress report, they should refer to the process outlined in the FAQ of the [Mark Reporting Guidelines](#) from LAUSD.
- If safety protocols are not being observed, if members are not being provided with appropriate flexibility, or if administrators are making unreasonable requests or demands, members should contact their chapter chair, who should then contact UTLA.

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### **The fight we face: Classrooms and Communities Over Cuts**

- We have all heard about the huge budget fight we are about to face: potential layoffs, attacks on healthcare and retirement, and more cuts to school funding. We don't want a repeat of what happened after the 2008 crash, when the district laid off thousands of educators and furloughed UTLA members. We are facing a much worse financial situation than 2008. 55% of Angelenos do not have a job. The state is predicting a deficit of \$54.3 billion. This could mean layoff notices as early as August, no matter what Beutner says now.
- Mitch McConnell is publicly saying he wants to bankrupt states — that is all about trying to force states to eliminate public sector pensions. This has been the corporate right wing's strategy for decades: bankrupt states and force cuts.
- But we know the money is in our economy to stop the cuts. Just in the time since our schools closed, the net worth of the nation's billionaires increased by \$308 billion. That is more than

enough to cover the needs of public education. The federal government is refusing to help state and local governments, but they have given away trillions of dollars in bailouts to corporations with little to no conditions on the money. But they need educators to reopen schools and they need schools to be able to reopen the economy. We have power. We saw that in the strike.

- It is vital that our union gets in front of this fight before 2008 becomes our new reality. We are a stronger and more organized union now than we were in 2008. What we learned in 2019 is that when we fight, we win.
- Our coalition of the largest teachers' unions in seven of the largest cities in the state — San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, Berkeley, Richmond, Bakersfield, and Los Angeles — are united behind a joint petition with 3 key demands:
  1. We oppose any cuts and demand a federal bailout for public education and social services. We will not allow privatization through distance learning.
  2. We will vote for Schools and Communities First initiative in November - to raise \$11 billion in new money for schools and social services.
  3. We demand that the healthcare, economic, housing and workplace needs of our students and families be met.
- The first step of our fight is having every UTLA member sign the petition and commit to the position of rejecting cuts to public education and demanding funding for our schools and the needs of our students.

**PETITION LINK:** <https://www.utla.net/Classrooms-Communities-Over-Cuts-Petition>

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## **New guidance on elementary grading**

- Last week LAUSD released [Mark Reporting Guidelines](#) for elementary schools, and this memo should be referred to as teachers begin to start inputting student grades. As per our MOU, students will not receive a lesser grade than their grade as of March 13, 2020. The memo also mentions that no 1s shall be issued. However, a modified academic score of 2 is defined as Limited Progress or Progressing toward meeting grade-level standards. Refer to the memo for guidance on subject areas that may have been modified to allow for an NA to be assigned. Clarification on procedures to ensure that parents/guardians are provided warning notices, guidance on retention, and a process on delivering the final Progress Reports to parents/guardians is also in the memo.
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## **Tune in to UTLA Wellness Wednesdays at 8:30 am**

- May is Wellness and Mental Health Awareness month and the UTLA Wellness Team is hosting a program to help you care for yourself during this pandemic. Members, students, and families — tune in every Wednesday at 8:30 am for our Facebook Live presentation (also featured on Instagram and Twitter) of strategies and resources you can apply on a daily basis. #UTLAWellnessWednesdays
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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**

**May 18-21:** CAT trainings by area

**May 19:** PACE meeting

**May 20:** House of Reps meeting

**June 17:** Area meeting