

Chapter Talking Points

November 16, 2020

Info for chapter leaders

Still time to sign up: Monday webinar on health metrics

- We are in bargaining over what an eventual physical return to schools will look like. However, a physical return is not imminent at this point and we believe certain community health metrics have to be reached before we can safely return to school sites. This Zoom webinar will be an opportunity for Chapter Chairs to learn about what information is used to measure safety during an active pandemic and the health metrics we believe have to be met, and get an update on the overall physical return bargain. Chapter Chairs will be provided with important information that will help you conduct chapter meetings prior to the Thanksgiving vacation to update your colleagues on these important issues.

When: Nov 16, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Topic: Health Metrics and Bargaining Update

Register in advance with this Zoom link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yNpX3FLMRN-sWEMp39CC4g

LAUSD surveying parents and educators

- Starting next week the district is hosting virtual town halls and sharing a “Return to Campus Overview” with LAUSD families. Families will get a survey asking if parents would like their children to go back to school in a hybrid format with some learning online or if they’d prefer continuing with online-only learning. Educators are also going to be surveyed at some point about returning physically or continuing with online-only instruction.

Area Meetings this Wednesday

- Our next scheduled Area Meetings are this week, on November 18. We will discuss the latest developments in bargaining, distance learning issues, election results, and what to expect as we approach the winter break. There will be elections for House of Reps seats and alternates. Please be sure to join this meeting or have a representative from your site attend.
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Talking points for chapter meetings

Bargaining update and health metrics for safe return

- We continue to meet with LAUSD officials on the eventual physical return to schools. Throughout this difficult period of unprecedented health risk to students and staff, LAUSD and UTLA have been in agreement that science-based standards must be the guide for when to physically reopen schools.
- One critical component is that certain community health metrics have to be reached before a wide-scale physical return. We are drilling down on specifics — concrete science-based standards on community spread, testing, tracing, and more, developed in consultation with public health experts. These metrics must reflect the profound reality that certain communities have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including low-income, Black, Latino, Pacific Islander, and essential workers.
- On Monday we are holding a Zoom webinar for UTLA chapter leaders on the community health metrics that we believe must be met prior to a physical return. Chapter leaders will be holding chapter meetings after the webinar for colleagues to discuss the metrics and where we are in bargaining. These meetings should happen before we break for Thanksgiving vacation.
- In uncertain times rumors flourish: There is no scheduled date for the widespread physical reopening of schools. It has been announced that January is the earliest month — that does not mean January is certain.

Healthcare bargaining

- Bargaining with LAUSD on our healthcare has begun. In this time when health insurance is more critical than ever, we are pushing for continued coverage with no changes. We'll keep you updated on our progress.

Passing of LAUSD principal Milady Quito

- We share the tragic news that Milady Quito, principal at Independence Elementary in South Gate and former chapter chair at Maywood Elementary, has passed away from complications of COVID. Milady touched the lives of countless LAUSD students as a former kindergarten teacher, coordinator, and Special Education teacher. She loved to read, was a phenomenal community organizer and advocate, and was a loving friend, daughter, and aunt.
- At the start of this school year, Milady wrote a poignant principal's message on the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. She wrote about staff and students' resilience and the school's commitment to make distance learning accessible to all students. And then she shared the school theme for the year: "Be Brave," and she wrote "Never give up hope, no matter how dark things seem."
- We grieve this loss and we keep her family, friends, and the Independence Elementary school community in our thoughts, and we will keep her tragic passing in our minds as we navigate the safe reopening of schools.

Elections for the 2021-22 UTLA House of Representatives Open Area seats at the November 18 Area meetings

- The House of Reps (HOR) is the policy making body of UTLA with the following responsibilities (Article V, Section 5, 9, 10):
 1. Attend all regular and special meetings of the HOR
 2. Participate in the complete business portion of the meeting
 3. Attend all Area Meetings
 4. Report the activities of the House to my constituents.

The first meeting of the new HOR will be on February 10, 2021. If you are interested in representing your UTLA Area, attend the zoom Area Meeting on Nov.18 at 4 pm, and either notify the Area Chair or email Arlene Inouye ainouye@utla.net of your interest.

There are HOR member seats open in every area, plus up to 3-5 alternates.

UTLA calendar

Nov. 16: Chapter Chair meeting about health metrics and bargaining

Nov. 18: Area meetings

Dec. 2: House of Reps meeting

Dec. 9: PACE meeting