



JUST THE FACTS...



The VTA/CTA/NEA Bargaining Update
Reopening Schools #1
September 24, 2020

The VTA and VUSD Bargaining Teams met (on Zoom) on September 24, 2020 for 1.5 hours.

VTA Bargaining Team Members Present:

Brenda Hensley, VTA Bargaining Chairperson
Kim Campbell
Tracy Begley
Annaliese Vasquez
Todd Blanset, VTA President

VUSD Bargaining Team Members Present:

Chris Hulett
Manolo Garcia
Kelly Burks
Ryan Galles
Sasha Begell
Jose Bermudez
Ali Eeds

The teams met for a discussion session about the reopening of schools for some in-person learning.

The discussion included:

- SPED small cohort plan (still in progress and reliant on *General Ed* plan for Red Tier); transportation protocols in Purple Tier limit what small cohorts can come back in Purple Tier.
- District shared three main goals: high quality instruction (like now or better), those students who want to remain on distance learning are still attached to their class, and that the work is no harder for teachers than it already is.
- VTA shared that SAFETY of staff, students, all families and the community as a whole should be one of our main goals.

- VUSD is proposing 50% hybrid models for all grade levels, with a staggered approach by grade level for opening. They shared that they want to start with TK-1, then grades 2-3, then grades 4-6, and then 7-12.
- The timelines for starting the staggered reopening will depend on level of safety readiness of the District and how quickly plans can safely be implemented.
- VTA urged at least one transition week for staff (with minimal live Zoom instruction) before going in-person.
- VUSD verbally proposed live streaming in-person classes to at-home students. VTA urged other options for teachers who did not want to live stream their in-person classes.
- VTA asked questions regarding HVAC systems; VUSD said that all HVAC units were MERV 8 and up (with some at MERV 9 and 11). VUSD stated that all HVAC units bring in air from the outside in to the classrooms.
- VTA inquired about plexiglass barriers being made available to teachers who wanted them.
- VUSD stated that all classrooms in the district have been checked for adequate square footage for 6-foot physical distancing of students.
- VTA inquired about staff COVID testing protocols. VUSD does not have a COVID testing plan in place at this time.
- VUSD is considering lunches in classrooms; VTA strongly advocated for an in-person schedule that included grab and go lunch only.

VTA is urging all teachers to take the grade specific Safety Survey that President Todd Blanset will be sending out ASAP. Please take those surveys by Tuesday 9/29/20.

Our next bargaining session about reopening is set for Wednesday 9/30/20.

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