

**Rep. Council Minutes**  
**January 18, 2022 via Zoom**  
[Zoom Link \(Password: 412038\)](#)  
[Meeting Attendance](#)

**Elementary Concerns:**

- Frustration with lack of support from the district special ed, particularly with student behaviors that are over running/monopolizing classrooms.
- Question- Are teachers allowed to search backpacks alone? Different sites seem to be handling this. A teacher was told by an admin to search a backpack alone to check for drugs. Todd said no, teachers should NOT be checking backpacks, particularly without someone else in the room.
- There are still issues at Hemlock with the RTI program and being overwhelmed. Todd encouraged them to say no, they are not doing this.
- Is there an end in site for testing unvaccinated staff since everyone is getting Covid? Not at this point.
- Some sites have been canceling recess for wind. There is concern about the amount of time students are losing out, but also the loss of prep and time without students.
- Are there staff meetings on the Wednesday before report cards are going out? That is normally reserved for report cards to be done. The MOU says every effort is to be made to not have a meeting on No-Collab Wednesdays.

**Meeting Called to Order: 4:02**

1. **Approval of the minutes** - approved without objection
  - a. [January Rep Council Meeting Minutes](#)
2. **Approval of the agenda** -approved without objection
3. **President's Report:** Todd Blanset
  - a. [Written Report](#)
    - Non-re-elect notices are coming.
    - Mask mandates may be changing. We will be following CDHP guidelines
    - The first Special Ed collab meeting between VTA and the District was yesterday, 2/14. Progress was made and they got into some meaty issues.
4. **Treasurer's report:** Brenda Hensley - Approved without objection
  - a. [Profit and Loss Budget Vs. Actual](#)
  - b. [January Written Report](#)
  - c. [Current Site Funds](#)

**5. Bargaining Update:** Brenda Hensley

- a. Meeting in short 2 hour chunks instead of days because of the lack of subs.
- b. Making progress, particularly about calendar issues.
  - Looking at turning the day back from Winter Break a late start (checking instructional minutes)
  - Differential pay is being discussed (should apply only after you have used all of your sick leave)
  - Personal leave and sick leave - they are trying to simplify language
  - COLA is not going to be discussed until next year.

**6. Grievance Update:** Lisa Cusi

- Todd is putting out the request for transfer deadlines.
- A principal at a school site has asked a senior teacher to enter the transfer list to save the job of a younger teacher. Please let Todd know if you know this is happening.

**7. State Council Report:** Ariel Ray and Keri Tafuro

**8. Standing Committee/Chair Reports**

- a. **Equity Team:** Unfilled - Looking for a chair. Please let Todd know if you are interested or know anyone who is interested.
- b. **Member Engagement:** Alyson Brauning
- c. **New Teacher Support:** Unfilled (Newly Formed)
- d. **Labor Council:** Miranda Merino - Labor Council has been interviewing candidates that are looking for endorsements to see who they will be endorsing.

There are several work actions happening right now with other unions in the area.

- e. **Action:** Corey Penrose

The VTA website has been updated with the following links:

Calendars can be found here -

<http://www.vacateachers.org/vta-documents/school-calendars/2022-2023-calendars/>

MOU's can be found here-

<http://www.vacateachers.org/vta-documents/contract-salary-schedules-and-current-mous/current-mous/>

Bargaining updates can be found here -

<http://www.vacateachers.org/vta-documents/bargaining-leave-and-health-care-updates/bargaining-updates/>

The updated "Who do I ask" can be found here -

<http://www.vacateachers.org/about-us/who-do-i-ask-about/>

Since many of those are pushed out over VUSD email, they've not been pushed to the feed for our site, but, if rep council would like that to happen, please let me know and I will do so.

- f. **PAC:** Corey Penrose & Ariel Ray (PAC treasurer) (Submitted by Corey Penrose)

Communication with the current occupants of open seats for the Vacaville School Board, and the Solano County Board of Education has started. No official declarations of candidacy have been made, but we are planning to work with our neighboring chapters in Solano County, and the Labor Council, to do an early endorsement in the County Board of Education Races.

We have also been working with the Mayor of Vacaville, Ron Rowlett, to develop policy to address parking issues at Vacaville High School, but there is nothing to report on this issue at this time.

g. **Special Ed:** Shannon Cole and Cynthia Coble

- The first meeting with the new Special Ed committee was held. They were able to talk a lot about what are some of the underlying issues in the district.

h. **Leave Bank:**

i. **Membership:** Tracy Begley

- Encourage members who are not members to become members for the legal protections the union provides.

**9. New and continuing business:**

- VTA Site visits were suspended due to Covid. If you would like to have one at your school site,

**10. Conference reports:** New Educator Conference is going to be in person. Jaxie will be the member engagement person there.

- Ryan Williams went to Good Teaching and received a lot of good information on trauma informed teaching.

**11. Other:**

**Secondary Issues**

→ There are people applying for sub positions that are not being called back. There are also problems with some of the subs being disrespectful toward staff and students.

→ Student teachers at Wood are applying to become subs and aren't being called back. Todd asked for names and numbers so he can give specific examples to the district.

→ Concern at Vaca High that teachers are being named Admin for the day that don't have any admin credentials and are being chosen over people who would like to be admins. It seems like they are being selected based on favoritism.

→ Home Hospital rate raised to \$60.

→ ELA Springboard curriculum at the highschool level is very out of date. Teachers would like to get a better curriculum.

→ Could there be a way to collaborate across the school site departments to share curriculum?

→ There is a question about informing parents of the opportunity to opt out. Teachers are being told not to mention their right to opt out because they want to have 95% attendance.

→ Concern is rising already for staff members who are worried about the possibility of losing masking.

→ Subs can be moved, particularly from secondary to elementary. Can they be moved from one classroom to another, even when the teacher arranged for the sub? There is no language that allows them to be moved to another class on campus.

→ Similarly to elementary, secondary is experiencing students with out of control behavior and lack of support.

– *Adjournment* - 5:23