

Union Notes – June 17, 2021

A Challenging Year, A Promising Future!

What a year! For educators, students, and parents, the pandemic and distance learning made this a particularly difficult school year. The past 15 months have been unprecedented, but the way educators responded was not. Educators did what they always do. Educators stepped up, adapted, and endured in order to meet the needs of our students. Educators recreated curriculum, learned new technology skills, established and maintained relationships with remote students, transformed their home into a classroom, and advocated for a return to sites only when it was safe for everyone; all while experiencing the wide-ranging impacts of a global pandemic.

The pandemic revealed to our communities what teachers have long known about the essentials for a quality education. Things like building relationships, equal access to resources and technology, relevant and engaging curriculum, and working with families to meet their student's academic and emotional needs. So, as we look ahead, let's remember the lessons from the last 15 months. Let's not get back to normal, let's build back better.

As we've shared in the last month, SDUSD has received unprecedented funding this year. SDEA is committed to working with educators, parents, community members, and district leadership to use what we've learned over the past 15 months and beyond to create a district that meets the needs of every part of the school community. We have an amazing opportunity before us, so let's work together to create the schools our students deserve.

But before we embark on that work, it is imperative that all educators take some time this summer to recharge. Educators gave their all this school year and cannot greet new students in the fall in the state educators find themselves in currently. I'm so proud of what SDEA members accomplished this year. Take care of yourselves and enjoy your time off.

TK-2 Literacy Acceleration Plan

In Wednesday's Educator Update, the District announced what they call a "TK-2 Literacy Acceleration Plan." The District shared the broad contours of their plan with SDEA this week. From their initial presentation, there are serious concerns about how this is being rolled out and what the required PD release days, and other meetings related to this program, will mean for TK-2nd grade educators for next school year.

The antidote to the literacy needs of our students is to reduce class size, not throw a new program at our educators as we transition back to normalcy. We'll have more updates in the coming weeks.

Possible Contract Ratification Vote this Summer

We have four additional bargaining dates scheduled in June with the District. We're hopeful that we will be able to close out this round of bargaining with a pay raise and additional

staffing. If we are able to do that, we will have a **ratification vote over the summer** so that we can lock in any potential gains prior to the fall.

Once we have a tentative agreement, we plan to conduct informational sessions for ARs and CRs. There will be informational webinar opportunities made available as well. Any ratification vote of the membership would be conducted online, and members would receive information via email, following the member informational meetings. **Please make sure you occasionally check your email over the summer break.**

Report Anti-Union Spam and Fight Back Against Union Busting!

Many of us have received emails asking us to drop out of our union and become free riders. This email spam campaign is being funded by the Freedom Foundation which is an anti-union anti-public education corporate funded operation with ties to ALEC and other union busting outfits. Freedom Foundation aims to dismantle our contracts, end our pensions, and privatize our schools. Not on our watch!

If an anti-worker group like the Freedom Foundation sends you an email without your permission, they are likely violating their email provider's terms of service, and maybe even the law.

You can follow these four simple steps to stop their anti-worker spam. These actions can help stop anti-worker organizations from harassing you and other union members in the future.

1) Mark the email as 'spam' or 'junk' in your email inbox.

An example from a Gmail account (Other email providers may have a slightly different process). Click on the email in question and follow these prompts:

2) Forward the entire email to Verve Mail (The Freedom Foundation's email provider) at support@vervemail.com and include the following text:

The Freedom Foundation is spamming me and my coworkers. Please ask them to cease all spam emails ASAP. This email has also been forwarded to the Federal Trade Commission and the California Attorney General.

3) Forward the entire email to the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov. There is no need to include a message, just forward the email in question.

4) Fill out this form to notify the California Attorney General:

<https://oag.ca.gov/contact/consumer-complaint-against-business-or-company>

Copy and paste the text of the email in question along with the following message:

I received this spam email from the Freedom Foundation on my work email address without my permission. Please ask the Freedom Foundation to cease all emails to my work email.

Member Benefits

As you prepare for summer break, don't forget all of the discounts and benefits available to you as a member of CTA and NEA. The [CTA Member Benefits](#) webpage is your portal to movie tickets, discounted theme park tickets, and travel discounts on hotels, rental cars, and flights.

NEA Member Benefits also offers discounts on [travel](#), [appliances](#), [pet insurance](#), [online shopping](#), and more! Check out both websites!