

Union Notes – Sept. 9, 2020

Welcome Back!

As formal instruction has begun this week, I want to recognize the long, unpaid hours all of our educators have dedicated to making sure our students have the very best educational experience they can in this new environment. I know that educators across the district have created new and innovative ways to welcome their students and families into their classrooms and learning communities. I know that educators have gone above and beyond to ensure that their students have the materials they need to begin the school year. I want to recognize that everyone is doing their very best in these trying times.

While we are encountering challenges and questions at every turn, SDEA leadership will continue to advocate for members at the District level. At the same time, every member, at every site and program, must continue to advocate for each other to ensure that our rights are protected and that the health and safety of students and educators remains a priority.

Facebook Live this Friday!

Tune in this Friday at 5:00 pm for the next [Facebook](#) Live with SDEA President Kisha Borden and incoming Vice President, Kyle Weinberg.

Special Education Update

Yesterday, a team of SDEA special education staff met with the District to share our concerns about the recently released guidelines for implementation of special education services and supports during the 2020-2021 school year. The meeting was productive and the District agreed to incorporate our feedback into the [newest version of the special education guidelines](#) and supporting documents that were updated at 1 pm today. The priorities that we conveyed are (1) the guidelines must conform with the protections enshrined in our July 30th Online Learning Agreement with the District, (2) parents must receive information that is clear and conforms with the Online Learning Agreement, and (3) the sustainable workload of special education staff must be a primary consideration when developing district policy. SDEA and District special education leadership agreed to continue collaborating on determining best practices for meeting the needs of students with IEPs during this crisis.

Starting this school year, Mild/Moderate teachers' caseloads are capped at no more than 20 students when the following criteria are met:

1. Mild/Moderate teachers' caseloads at the site are balanced. In other words, in order for this hard cap to be triggered you can't have one teacher with 18 students and another with 22 students.
2. The caseload of 20 has been exceeded for 10 or more workdays.

Please let your administration know if you meet the above criteria on September 15th. According to our contract, the District is required to give your site an additional allocation of Mild/Moderate teacher time to bring the caseload under 20.

San Diego Unified School Board Election



Make sure to check out the Sept. 2020 edition of the SDEA Advocate which dives into the upcoming, and crucial, [School Board Election](#). The majority of the seats on the school board hang in the balance. Your elected SDEA ARs/CRs on the Rep. Council have endorsed Sabrina Bazzo, Sharon Whitehurst-Payne and Richard Barrera for the three open seats.

We will be running a campaign to educate the public about this election. [Please consider giving](#) to the SDEA Political Action Committee to help in our outreach efforts to the public.

Social Justice Caucus

Are you interested in creating and participating in a group committed to raising awareness around social justice issues in SDEA. Are you also interested in raising awareness around or supporting social justice issues in our community? Click [here](#) and share which days and times would work best for you to attend our meetings.

Proposition 15, also known as Schools and Communities First

With only 55 days until the November election, it is so important that we get out the vote on Prop. 15. This proposition will support social services in our communities and bring

nearly \$70 million to SDUSD every year. For more information on Prop. 15, check out page 3 of our Sept. [Advocate](#).

Let us know that you are committed to voting yes on Prop. 15 by signing on to [this](#) commitment card. Once you've signed on, you will be removed from our phone banking call lists to support Prop. 15. Another way to support Prop. 15 is to volunteer for the CTA virtual phone banks happening in the next few weeks. SDEA will be hosting three nights of phone banking, Sept. 14th, 16th, and 21st from 4:00-6:00 pm. This phone banking will focus only on other CTA members and can be done from the comfort of your couch. Click [here](#) to sign up to phone bank.

If you'd like more information, make sure to reach out to your AR to get the date and time of your September SDEA site meeting.

CTA Distance Learning Support Series

The CTA Instruction and Professional Development (IPD) team will be hosting an ongoing series of support webinars this fall to help students and educators be successful with distance learning. Our September webinars will focus on trauma-informed approaches to instruction, practitioner self-care, and social-emotional learning. [REGISTER HERE!](#)

Sessions Included in Registration:

- **Sept 15:** SEL: A Positive, Strength-Based Approach Part 1
- **Sept 17:** SEL: A Positive, Strength-Based Approach Part 2
- **Sept 12-Dec 21:** Mindful Mondays (1st and 3rd Mondays of each month)
- **Sept 22:** Understanding Anger, Bias and Trauma: Building Empathy
- **Sept 29:** Thrively: A Strengths-Driven Approach to Learning

All sessions will also be recorded and available for asynchronous viewing on the [IPD Distance Learning Microsite](#), along with videos from earlier in the Distance Learning Support Series. Participation certificates will be available for participants who complete a short reflection after each session and will be sent out during the first week of October.