

## **Union Notes – April 21, 2021**

### **SDEA Racial Justice Statement**

In the wake of the Minnesota jury finding former police officer Derek Chauvin guilty of all charges for the murder of George Floyd in May of last year, our state California Teachers Association [issued a statement](#) calling for educators to “recommit to shared solutions for confronting racism, pursuing accountability, and advancing justice so that we can build a world together that is safer, more just, and more humane.”

Our SDEA Board of Directors unanimously approved a [racial justice statement](#) that challenges us to examine whether our practices contribute to systemic racial inequities. As educators, we have a responsibility to model the growth mindset for students by recognizing that our work toward building anti-racist classrooms and school communities is never done. Together, we must continue the call for justice and to hold powerful people, organizations and each other, accountable. What are we doing as union members to work toward anti-racism every day?

### **Congratulations to the 2021 SDUSD Teachers of the Year and Runners-up!**

SDEA members Thomas Courtney from Chollas-Mead Elementary, Guadalupe Celedon from CPMA Middle School and Sharon Apple from Hoover High School have been named San Diego Unified School District’s Teachers of the Year for 2021.

The runners-up are Janice Anderson from Johnson Elementary School, Renee Thomas from Marston Middle School, and Francia Pinillos, a Special Education Teacher with TRACE.

More information about these educators can be found [here](#). Congratulations to these outstanding educators and union members!

### **Planning for Rainy Days**

Does your school site have a plan for where students will eat on rainy days? [Rain showers are forecast for San Diego](#) on Monday. Site administrators should be working with staff to develop rainy day plans that prioritize the safety of everyone learning and working onsite. If this has not happened, educators can get this process started by gathering the input of colleagues and gaining the support of staff members for a collective plan before proposing it to administrators.

### **FAQ on COVID Notification**

**Q: Who should receive notification if a student or staff person tests positive for COVID-19?**

A: Anyone who is a “close contact” and anyone who was in the same congregate setting (classroom, bus, learning lab, etc.) as the positive individual. The District has informed SDEA that it is notifying all staff and families at a particular site when they receive notification of a positive case. Example of a “close contact” letter [HERE](#). Example of a non-close contact/general exposure letter [HERE](#).

**Q: How is “close contact” defined?**

A: Per the [SD County Epidemiology Branch](#), a “close contact” is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

**Q: Am I required to quarantine if I am a “close contact” and have been vaccinated?**

A: No, per the SDCOE, SD County, and CDPH “[Decision Tree](#),” vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine in the event they are a “close contact.”

**Q: What are the guidelines for the closure of school or classroom due to COVID positive cases?**

A: See attachments A and B, beginning on page 9, of our [SDEA Health and Safety agreement](#).

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