

WDEA Negotiations Update

January 15, 2021

-We met Julian Rivera, the COVID Coordinator for WUSD. He attended our meeting to gain insight into the negotiations process for how the district will be moving forward through the pandemic.

Clarification of Calendar Days- Spring Break was originally scheduled to end on April 2, with classes resuming on April 5. The 2020-21 school year was supposed to begin on August 13. Instead, we moved the first student contact day to August 17 with August 13 and 14 being used as Professional Development Days. (These two days were added to our salary.) August 17 was a Public Safety Power Shutoff day. The result of all this is that we will be using Wednesday March 31, Thursday, April 1 and Friday, April 2 as the days to bring our students back up to the state required 180 student contact days.

Returning to School MOU- **REMEMBER: the MOU delineates the metrics to be used in deciding when we are beginning to open our schools. At this point, all work is in preparation for when those metrics are met.** Admin is working on identifying students who meet the criteria for coming back in the beginning Phases 1-3 as outlined in the MOU. They expect to have names of students by January 21, which will allow them to determine their staffing needs by January 29. As in all phases of working our way through the pandemic, there are more questions than answers right now. Your Bargaining Team will be working closely with the District as we work our way through everything.

Safe Schools for All This is Governor Newsom's plan that has monetary values attached to schools that are able to open. Jeremy met with State Senator Mike McGuire to talk through the plan. McGuire is meeting with the governor on January 19 and will bring concerns and questions to him. The deadline to have your plan in place is February 1. The governor's plan stipulates that COVID-19 cases would be at 28 per 100,000. Today, Sonoma County is at 46 per 100,000. At this point, there are too many unanswered questions about funding not being approved by the CA Legislature yet, health and safety concerns and logistics for WUSD to even think about attempting to do this. WUSD will follow the metrics in our MOU unless CDPH information shows that the numbers for safe reopening have changed. If this were to happen, we would re-negotiate parts of the MOU.

Substitute Teachers- The District has been working with people who have said they would be substitutes for our district. In general, the subs are being used in long-term sub positions. The district still doesn't seem to have a clear plan for day-to-day needs. WDEA offered to have a committee meet with Chris Canelake to figure it out. At this point, teachers should let their principal or school secretary know if they are unable to be with their class. Sub plans should be made the same as if you were at school. This could be assigning asynchronous work. If possible, principals may be able to run Morning Meetings or do some synchronous meeting with students.

Coronavirus Vaccinations- Jeff Harding is working for SCOE to coordinate the vaccination process for Sonoma County Schools. As with everything else, there are more questions than answers right now. Once the vaccines are available, the process to get staff vaccinated will take approximately ten weeks. The plan will follow our plan for reopening with the focus on higher risk personnel going first, then TK-5 staff, Secondary staff and DO. WDEA and WUSD will work together with WDEA members who are concerned about the vaccinations. The vaccine looks promising but there is still a lot to learn about it. Once we have more information from a trusted source, we will know if we will write an addendum to our MOU as far as the metrics are concerned.