



Burbank Teachers Association
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The BTA negotiating team comprised of BTA's Executive Director, Nathan Banditelli, Sue Conway (Luther), Laura Mixon (McKinley), Brenda Kosbab (BHS), Adam Hochberg (JBHS), and Heidi Lavitt (Stevenson), Michelle Dixon, and Chandra Collins (for Sped input) met with the BUSD team, comprised of Sarah Niemann (Asst. Sup. Human Resources), John Paramo (Asst. Sup. Ed. Services), Debbie Kukta (Asst. Supt. Admin. Services), Laura Flosi (Principal Edison), and Jennifer Meglemre (Principal Jordan)

Introduction

The BTA negotiations team has begun to meet with the BUSD negotiations team in order to address problems that arise as we roll out distance learning for 2020 - 2021. The parties are also beginning discussions on a hybrid model. There are currently no solid plans to transition to a hybrid model, but it is never too early to begin the discussion.

Keep in mind that as the number of COVID-19 cases changes, state and county agencies continue to issue guidelines. As we grapple with distance learning and a shift to a hybrid model, the needs of educators, students, parents, and surrounding communities may differ. Some student populations will need to return to in-person instruction while others should not return. Some BTA members will be ready to start teaching in-person while others should not due to risk factors. Some districts will begin to bring students back to school before Burbank does. BTA leadership will continue to seek feedback and keep members informed as circumstances continue to change.

Negotiations

1. BTA and the District began discussions about next steps for the school year as L.A. County Covid-19 case numbers improve.

Special Education Assessments:

- The state is allowing special education assessments to take place in person on school campuses. The sped department is creating protocols for in person assessments. BTA will be surveying sped teachers, SLPs, and APE teachers about their comfort level in returning to campus with safety procedures in place to conduct initial and triennial assessments.
- At this point, there is no timetable to return for sped assessments. BTA and the District are gathering more information to be prepared.

Secondary Schedule

- BTA and the District agreed that the secondary schedule has some flexibility and teacher discretion within the 80-minute block for instruction and monitoring of students.
- A statement clarifying this will be released soon.

Language Arts Core Novels

- The Language Arts taskforce will be meeting September 9th to begin discussions about core novels and possibly modernizing the selection of books to be taught.

Hybrid Model

- BTA and the District began preliminary discussions about a hybrid model of instruction should L.A. County move into Tier 2 and Tier 3 in the new state guidelines.
- No timetable has been set; however, in the interest of preparation we are discussing safety protocols, continuity of instruction, and the implications for the master schedules. Preparing is important because small cohorts of students might be allowed back on campus before formal classes and, as conditions improve, the District could apply for an Elementary waiver to begin in person instruction. Discussions at this point are preliminary and exploratory.
- As a first step, BTA will be surveying members about their comfort level in returning to campuses with safety protocols in place in a hybrid system of instruction, and what a hybrid system would entail.

Next Negotiations: September 11, 2020