Time to say Goodbye to 2020-21

Although we are all ready for a break, a break from school, lesson plans, and emails, it is important to reflect on all you were able to do this past year. So many of you have had successes and have even shared moments of levity and laughter. The things that we have heard and seen during DL could fill pages in the “I can't believe this” book. It is true that we have all been impacted and to a degree have experienced trauma, but we have also gained resilience especially as members of a union. Now more than ever, BTA is relevant not just when it comes to our working conditions and rights, but also when it comes to our rights as professionals. Together we have years of experience and time has chastened us all and taught us to recognize that what works with one group of students may not work for another. Therefore, we need to make sure our voices are heard.

Next year when we return, we want to make sure we are not jumping into another program or curriculum without knowing what our students’ authentic needs are and without knowing what our colleagues’ needs are. The stress we experienced this year due to changes has been palpable, but the stress only compounds when we don’t speak up for ourselves and for each other. There lies the challenge, because sometimes what works for one may not for another, and this is where we must find a way to work together. I have said that sometimes we lose sight of the goal to educate and prepare our students for the future workforce and world because we want to provide everything, but there must be a balance. At the end of the day, we want our students to be able to read at grade level and have the necessary problem solving and thinking skills to lead a purposeful life, a life that encompasses civility in our interactions with each other and generosity of purpose when it comes to giving back to society. Our students are our investment, at least that is what I tell my ninth-grade students. We invest our time, energy and passion to give them a foundation that they can build on over their high school years and beyond. When graduation day comes, I help line them up for the procession, and it delights me to no end to see that they are one step closer to becoming the future - - a future that will continue to build legacies.

BTA’s Executive Board will have its annual retreat in June to plan and do a deep dive on issues regarding bargaining for next year’s salary and health and welfare benefits. We cannot stay where we are in terms of salary. The District must find a way to retain and recruit highly qualified teachers, counselors, nurses, and speech and language pathologists. We will also explore and work on where we are as an Association when it come to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This includes looking at our academic freedom and professional autonomy. We are also going to focus on SPED educators’ rights. It is going to be a busy year and, in some ways, even more challenging. I want to thank you all for your ongoing support and dedication.
to thank the Eboard and the Reps in advance for the time they give freely to represent all of us. For our BTA Site Reps, I urge you to take your turn at a leadership role in the upcoming 2021-22 school year. The union works if you work it.

Last of all, I hope that the monetary compensation piece you received is just a small reminder of what kind of power we share. We reject “begging rights” and demand “bargaining rights.” That is the balanced power of fairness and professional equity. That is the power of Union!

Have a restful summer. Find your joy and solace.

In unity,
Diana

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**UniServ Director’s Message by Nate Banditelli**

**California Education Should Look More Normal in 2021**

With COVID-19 infection rates dropping over the last few months and vaccines widely available, California has begun to reopen. The legislature and Governor Newsom have expressed a commitment to a full return to traditional instruction for the 2021/2022 school year. More good news came with the release of the May Revise, which included higher than expected increases in personal income tax, sales tax, and corporate tax revenues. As a result, California students will benefit from increases to education funding and new programs.

Highlights from the budget proposal:

**A 5.07% Cost of Living (COLA) adjustment to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Base Grant.** This is the largest COLA increase in years and the BTA Negotiations Team will be returning to the negotiations table in 2021/2022 in order to negotiate an agreement that will include items such as equitable compensation increases and an increase to the health and welfare benefits cap.

**Reopening Schools** with $2 billion in one-time funding for schools to fund health and safety activities, including testing and vaccine initiatives, enhanced cleaning, personal protective equipment, and improved ventilation. These funds are in addition to the $2 billion in one-time funding provided in the early action budget agreement earlier this year (AB 86).

**Increased SPED funding**, including a 4.05% COLA for SPED and increased one-time federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding.

**Independent Study** parameters have been proposed for students who will not return to traditional instruction for 2021/2022. The proposal includes access to technology, internet connectivity and rigorous curriculum, development and implementation of a framework of tiered re-engagement strategies for students not meaningfully participating in instruction, and tracking and recording daily student participation and interaction with teachers.

**College Savings Accounts** using one-time federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds in 2021-22 and funding beginning in 2022-23 to establish college savings accounts for all current low-income public school students. The proposal would provide seed funding of $500 for each low-income first grader, with an additional $500 for foster youth and homeless students.

**Transitional Kindergarten (TK)** phase-in will begin, with a goal to provide universal TK for all four-year-olds by 2024/2025. The expansion would be phased in over four years, with 2021-22 for local educational agencies (LEAs) to plan and expanding eligibility by three months of age per year from 2022-23 through 2024-25. Funding level would be increased each year of expanded eligibility to account for the additional costs.

The May Revise also includes additional funding increases for the following programs: CalSTRS funding, investment in broadband infrastructure, expanded learning time, grants for expanding community schools, teacher training, mental
The next step in the budget process is negotiations between Governor Newsom and the legislature, with budget passage by June 30 and once Newsom signs the budget, it becomes law.

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

We honor our members who are retiring and those who have served in Burbank Unified School District for 25 years.

**RETIREES**

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<tr>
<th>Cathy Marcy - McKinley</th>
<th>Karin Anderson - Stevenson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Roseann Webb - McKinley</td>
<td>Elizabeth Thomas - Huerta</td>
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<td>María Esquivel - McKinley</td>
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<td>Sydney Harrison - BHS</td>
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<td>Agnes Hoover - Muir</td>
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<td>Lynne Maune - Edison ATB</td>
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<td>Julie Kropf - Emerson ATB</td>
<td>Armineh Kasparian - Roosevelt</td>
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<td>Roberta Rohwer - Mann CC</td>
<td>Debby Demyanek - Jefferson</td>
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<td>Zoya Aboolian - Mann CC</td>
<td>Georgan Yantz - Jefferson</td>
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<td>Rosemarie Rodriguez - Monterey CC</td>
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**25 Years**

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<td>Kathryn Gallego</td>
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**Dolores Huerta Honored at April Rep Council**

On April 26, 2021, BTA had the honor of having Dolores Huerta speak at the Rep. Council. She spoke about her social justice activism throughout her life, she praised the work of public-school educators, and spoke about the importance of labor unions.
Union roots go deep in Amy Fuhr’s family. Her sister, Sarah Schwartz, has been involved in BTA over the years and is our current Elementary Director. Amy’s uncle, Bob Shaw, a former BHS teacher was a life long BTA member and advocate.

Amy is a teacher at Dolores Huerta Middle School, so it was more than fitting that she, who has been a social studies, creative design, and yearbook teacher for the past few years at Dolores Huerta Middle School, represent her colleagues in her presentation to Dolores.

Here is Amy’s speech and a link to the video she showed.

“As we grow up, when we think of where we went to school the name elicits pride and a sense of community. 3 years ago, when students were researching David Starr Jordan as part of a mural project, some students learned that he didn’t have the most glorious legacy for our students to embrace. This led to a decision to change our name and find someone who could represent the future we hope to have.

After years of discussion and deliberation it was decided that our school would change its name to Dolores Huerta Middle School and embrace the legacy of change that you represent. Burbank has never named a school for a woman or a person of color until now. We are honored to be able to have your name on our building for future generations to see as a beacon of hope and a role model for how we want to live.

Your strength and voice serve as inspiration for future generations of Dolores Huerta Middle School.

As teachers at Huerta, we use your name and legacy to teach our students to speak up for themselves and others. We encourage them to be the change that they want to see. We remind them that our name change came from a student-led movement, that their powers are limitless, and that through perseverance and hard work they can accomplish anything they set their minds to. Yes we can!”

Dolores Huerta Middle School

Right now, as an BTA member, you have a limited-time special enrollment opportunity for CTA-endorsed Disability and Life insurance from The Standard. Learn more about how these benefits can help you prepare for the future in a live presentation. Register below to attend.

Maternity Benefits: June 2 at 10:30 A.M.
Why Choose CTA-endorsed: June 3 at 10:30 A.M

Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Ave, Portland, OR 97204
BTA MEMBERS ENJOY A DAY OF THE TEACHER TREAT

To celebrate the 2021 California Day of the Teacher on May 12, BTA invited members to enjoy drinks from the Chai Truck (@chaitruck) at the BTA office. It was wonderful to see groups of friends and colleagues getting tea and coffee while chatting around the office. Thank you for all of your hard work this year and every year!

READING WALK by Sarah Schwartz

By now you have likely noticed the books hanging outside the elementary schools. This year, as a way to celebrate reading, BTA put on a Reading Walk. We purchased a different book for each site, secured them to pieces of wood, and
hung them on the fences for families and community members to enjoy as they walk past. The books selected are rich in diversity and full of beautiful illustrations.

I took my kindergarteners to read the book that is outside Edison and they loved it. It was a great opportunity to share a story in a new setting, stretch our legs, and have a little adventure to the other side of our campus.

We want to end this very challenging school year by encouraging our students to see that reading takes place, here, there, and everywhere; not just in a classroom or a library. Next year it is our goal to hold our second Community Read-In.

You are also never too young to rep the BTA apple as evidenced by Logan with his mom Jenny Timoney (McKinley).

ENJOY THE SUMMER EVERYONE!

BTA PRIDE

Coming together and organizing our members helps us fight the good fight when it comes to seeking solutions and obtaining results that bring about change.

A shout out to our Dolores Huerta Middle School BTA strong PE Department. Left to right: Mike Carr, Kenny Bess, Jerry Delaurie, Jamie Griffin and Nicole Drabecki. They wear their union shirts proudly. Si se puede!

Burbank Teachers Association

3021 W. Burbank Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91505

Unsubscribe