

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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WJUSD and Teacher Negotiations Update – November 23, 2020

The District and WEA bargaining teams continued negotiations on Friday, November 20, regarding the effects and impacts of the District's plan to initiate its Phase 2 of reopening, as approved by the Board on October 8, 2020. (See prior updates.) The parties last met on November 17 and thereafter WEA presented the District its counter proposal electronically on November 18. Friday's brief negotiations session began with WEA reviewing the specifics of their November 18 proposal which failed to respond to the District's proposed SDC start date of November 30, 2020. Although the parties are getting closer to reaching an agreement for Phase 2, WEA's proposal continues to reject the SDC class schedules developed in consultation with SDC teachers. Specifically, WEA continues to raise issues with the District's plan to provide lunch to SDC students, proposing instead that the students' instructional day end prior to receiving their lunch which they would take home. The District reiterated that student's would be supervised and will remain in their separate cohorts when receiving lunch, consistent with health guidelines. WEA continues to assert that this arrangement is unsafe, the District disagrees. The District reiterated its concerns with WEA that SDC in-person instruction must commence as soon as possible. WEA's proposal also requests adjustments to the teacher evaluation process to clarify that technology issues that occur outside of the control of employees would not be reflected in evaluations scheduled for this year. The District is agreeable to that request. While WEA continues to communicate concerns with the schedules developed in collaboration with SDC teachers, to date WEA has not presented any alternative sample schedules. The District requested again for WEA to provide specific proposals for both instructional schedules and for return dates for staff and students, and asked for these to be provided at the next session. The parties are scheduled to meet December 1, 3 and 4. The District continues to be committed to bargaining in good faith with our labor partners, with an increased sense of urgency, to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment for staff and students for this next phase of reopening.

WJUSD Negotiations Team

Leanee Medina Estrada, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Lewis Wiley, Jr., Associate Superintendent, Business Services
Christina Lambie, Executive Director, Teaching and Learning
Shelley Friery, Principal, Lee Middle School
Eddie Gonzales, Principal, Freeman Elementary School