

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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WJUSD and Teacher Negotiations Update – November 18, 2020

The District and WEA bargaining teams continued negotiations yesterday 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. Phase 2 involves limited blended learning by expanding in-person instruction and services to special day class students, in-person counseling services, and providing additional in-person supports for select students (e.g., migrant, homeless, and foster care students and students identified for social emotional supports). Yesterday, the District proposed new dates for the return of staff and students for Phase 2. Specifically, the District proposed that Phase 2 employees would return to the classroom on Monday, November 30, with interested Phase 2 students returning for hybrid instruction the following week, on Monday, December 7.

This change in reopening dates is due in part to Yolo County officially moving back to the more restrictive purple, or widespread, tier after the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced changes to its Blueprint framework on November 16. This move back to the purple tier changes how districts are able to serve students. Under the purple tier, schools not already opened to students must stay closed but in-person specialized and targeted instruction may be provided to cohorts of students identified by a local district. The District has identified special day class students (SDC) as eligible to attend in-person under the state's cohort guidance for the purple tier.

The District began yesterday's session by presenting a counter proposal to WEA. Based on Yolo County's return to the purple tier, the District's proposal withdrew prior plans for in-person counseling and focused solely on returning SDC students for in-person instruction. The District's proposal addressed SDC cohort size requirements compliant with state guidance, as well as COVID-19 testing and notification processes in the event of a positive COVID-19 case. The District also proposed language agreeing to negotiate instructional minutes for Phase 3 schedules. The parties caucused and extended the session time by one hour. WEA did not provide a counter proposal but offered a number of potential future negotiations dates. The parties confirmed future sessions for this Friday, November 20, 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

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Christina Lambie, Executive Director, Teaching and Learning
Shelley Friery, Principal, Lee Middle School
Eddie Gonzales, Principal, Freeman Elementary School