

President's Update: Week of August 20-27th

Welcome back! I sincerely hope that you had a terrific vacation. I look forward to serving you again. Although there are a few pressing issues, including large class sizes, I am going to accentuate the positive in my initial communication of 2019-20. Let's have a great year!

Bargaining

It is my pleasure to welcome Maria Valdivia to our Negotiation Team. Maria teaches SPED Moorpark High School. She replaces Rosanna Salgado as our SPED Representative on the bargaining squad. As many of you know, Rosanna is now an Assistant Principal at Mesa Verde. The District keeps stealing our people! Dyan McIntosh will also join us during negotiations as the Counseling Rep.

We will meet with District on September 5th for our first negotiation of the 2019-2020 bargaining cycle. We are optimistic about State and District finances; however, at this point in the cycle, we have no way of knowing what our proposal concerning compensation will be. We anxiously await the District's first budget. After CBO, Latasha Jamal, issues MUSD's preliminary numbers, MEA will use this information as well as CTA and Department of Finance projections to develop a reasonable offer.

On the 5th, we will discuss Counseling contract language. I submitted a draft to the District on August 21st. The District will review the draft, and then we will discuss it. Once we reach an agreement on the language, all MEA members will vote on the addition to our CBA.

Last, 2019-2020 is a "contract" year. Our contracts run on three-year cycles. In short, this means that the District and MEA update, add, subtract, tinker with the contract every three years. All MEA members will vote on any changes. I don't foresee any controversy. The most significant alterations will deal with the changes in language due to the *Janus* Supreme Court decision.

Membership

As of August 22, the District hired 12 new teachers. MEA Site Reps have been attempting to sign them up for MEA. We think we'll sign most or all new teachers by mid-September. Thank you to Rosana Meisterling, Cynthia Kahle, and Lisa McCarter for taking time from their Summer to assist at New Teacher Orientation.

MEA is very excited about signing all 12 School Counselors (11.5 FTE) to our core of outstanding educators. Counselors are our perfect partners in our educational mission. This group is incredibly hard-working, dedicated, and talented. They will add insight and perspective to our union. I think that they will benefit from MEA's strength in numbers as well as the workplace representation that our association grants them. As mentioned, Jake and I are diligently working with the Counselors to develop contract language that guarantees them fair working conditions. We certainly want them to receive competitive compensation for the extraordinary time and effort that they put into their jobs.

Chris Caprino from MHS will serve as the Counselor's Representative on our Executive Board.

Elections/Site Reps

This year all MEA officers will be in contest. The term in office for the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer is two years. Elections will take place, at the latest, during the second week of April.

Nominations will be due during the last week of March. See the MEA Constitution on Moorparkeducators.com for specific duties for each office.

If you or any of your colleagues are interested in serving on our Representative Council, please contact me. You can also attend any and every Rep Council meeting without being a Rep. The Rep Council is MEA's policy-making body. Each site gets one (1) representative per ten (10) certificated members at his/her school. For example, Chaparral has about 30 teachers. They get three (3) votes at Representative Council.

Last Items

Jake and I are working on a new grant for MEA. We want to use the funds to offer some fun activities to our members and to afford more professional development opportunities, such as conferences, as well.

The mandatory on-line trainings are taking somewhere between two and three hours to complete. Your principal should carve out meeting/collaboration time for you. All District employees are required by the State to finish them. Please let me know if your principal does not give you enough time.

I hope your 2019-20 is wonderful. I am proud to serve and represent you. Let's stick together, keep the lines of communication open, and help our student's grow personally, socially, and academically. MEA is about the potential for collective voice and power. This power comes from being associated together for a common purpose.

Best,

Brian