

President's Message 11-4 to 11-8

Here are some of the issues affecting our association.

Moorpark Bond Measure

The School Board unanimously endorsed the \$96 million dollar bond at Tuesday's meeting. The tax money generated goes specifically to repairs, renovations, and updates to MUSD facilities. The objective of the bond is to improve the quality of education in Moorpark schools. The bond ties all funding to this end. I am endorsing the bond and your MEA Representative Council voted unanimously to do the same. I want to thank all the members who spoke in favor of the bond on Tuesday night--Jeanine Alexander, Glynnis Page, Eleanor Godfrey, Aggie Walters, and Lisa McCarter. Your voices made a difference.

New Normal: Fire Season

When a District "shuts down," due to wind or air quality issues, the State may require that the District make-up the missed days in order to collect student ADA. If a District closes due to fire danger, it may not have to make-up the missed pupil days. The districts who do shut down under these circumstances must complete a waiver with the state to try to recuperate the lost days. For example, last week, the District considered shutting down due to wind and air quality. At 6:21am Wednesday morning, MUSD schools were still on schedule to open business as usual. If the District shut down its schools because of wind or air quality, teachers would likely be required to teach make-up days. At 6:22am, when the *Easy* Fire broke out, the District, after consulting local fire officials, decided to close schools due to fire danger. MUSD will probably not have to make up either Wednesday or Thursday of last week. In contrast, Las Virgenes USD decided to "shut down" operations on those same days. They may have to make up the days in order to reclaim the lost ADA. Both districts will have to seek a waiver to get those days counted.

MUSD has agreed to establish lines of communication with 0 period teachers at MHS. The general cut off time for cancelling school (and sub requests for that matter) has historically been 6:30am. Many 0 Period teachers are on campus well before 6:30am. MHS requires an administrator to be on campus at 7am. Our teachers and the 321 kids who take 0 period classes need to know what's happening earlier. At my Tuesday morning meeting with Dr. Hays, she agreed to a 6:00 a.m. cut off, conditions permitted. In addition, the DO will establish an email group for the 0 period teachers, so information gets to them as early as possible.

Although fires are not new to Southern California, the seasonal nature, the seeming inevitability of them is. MEA has been working with the District on establishing norms and procedures for shut down and fire days. If you have any suggestions about how to improve communication, please let MEA leadership know.

Clarification on High School AM/PM Substitute Teachers

Teachers have a pupil-free lunch, substitutes do not. The schedules presented here are really the substitutes work schedule. Subs who accept half day jobs commit to working 4 periods, including lunch (if applicable).

Teacher Who Works Periods 0-5 will have sub for

AM: 0, 1, 2, 3

PM: 3, 4, L, 5

Teacher Who Works Periods 1-6 will have sub for

AM: 1, 2, 3, 4

PM: 4, L, 5, 6

Teacher Who Works Periods 2-7 will have sub for

AM: 2, 3, 4, L

PM: L, 5, 6, 7

Meeting with CVT

I meet with our California Valued Trust representative Elizabeth Perez on Thursday to discuss the possibility of offering more health care plan choices to our members. As you will recall, CVT is our health care trust. A health care trust creates a larger pool of subscribers, which allows the trust to absorb more costs to keep the price of the policies lower.

Presently, MUSD offers three plans: 2 HMOs (Kaiser and Blue Shield) and one PPO (Blue Shield). Maybe our members can benefit more from a wider variety of offerings, and if we can save the District some money in the process. Let me be clear: **MEA is only exploring an increase in the number of plans offered. MEA has no interest in subtracting from or changing the present plans.** If MEA can help MUSD save money, more of it can go possibility go to compensation and to classrooms. Each year that we do not have to pay more than \$50 a month for our health care benefits is a *de facto* pay raise. Why? Because every year in recent memory the cost of health care benefits has increased. The District automatically prefigures a 5% increase in costs in its budgets. More plans may be one way to benefit both our members and the District's bottom line.

Bargaining

We haven't put together our financial bargaining proposal for 2019-20. We will not submit our formal "ask" until after District issues its First Interim Budget next month. It is a full contract year, so the Bargaining Team is working through the contract article by article as well as negotiating the school counselors' contract language. Due to recent State legislation, MEA and MUSD may have to rush through language concerning MHS's 0 Period prior to January 1st so the District can continue to receive

ADA for 0 Period through 2023. Members will vote on any change to our Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Have a great 3-day weekend! Brian