



Acalanes Education Association

Newsletter


www.acalanesteachers.org

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STATE BUDGET CONCERNS

Due to a huge decrease in our state's revenue caused by the shutdowns from the coronavirus pandemic, the state's budget will be grim for the next couple of years. Governor Newsom proposed cuts to the budget including a 10% cut to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) that public schools receive.

Remember that AUHSD moved to a different funding formula a few years ago called Basic Aid where we get to keep our local property taxes. This insulates us from the state budget a little, as we are not funded through LCFF per student, but the state warns that all school districts will feel these budget cuts.

Federal government stimulus packages are the only thing that will help the education budget. Both Houses are working on stimulus bills to help our schools, businesses and families financially survive the effects of the coronavirus. Teachers' #FunditFriday calls to the Congress members were great and they heard us loud and clear that schools need funding! Now it's time to call or email our senators and local state legislators. Start with Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan in San Ramon (925) 328-1515 and Senator Steve Glazer in Orinda at (925) 258-1176. More information on a massive CALL TO ACTION will be sent to your email. Until then, visit the budget crisis link to get started with your advocacy for our schools, our students and our jobs: [COVID-19 Budget Crisis](#)

FLEX PLAN ACCOUNTS

The Flex Plan 125 allows our employees to save a certain amount of pre-taxed money in order to pay for medical items and bills and dependent child care, for example. The "section 125" is the [IRS tax code](#). According to Julie Bautista's email, open enrollment for Section 125 Flexible Spending accounts for medical and dependent care will take place in the fall of 2020.

When we moved from CalPERS to SISC for our medical plan administration, open enrollment for medical plans changed to the spring (now) with the new plans/rates going into effect in October. The past two years, we have also had flex plan enrollment at the same time as medical plan enrollment. People asked to have the flex plan enrollment moved to the fall because they don't know what their child care expenses for next year are at this point, hence the reason for the August date.

If you have any questions please contact the District Payroll/Benefits Office at 925-280-3900, ext. 6615 or email benefits@auhdschools.org.

SPECIAL EDUCATION & IEPS

When schools first closed due to the stay-home order, special ed teachers were asked to put most IEPS on hold and focus only on any "major" IEPS and to get extensions for the rest. When we realized that we weren't going back this year and that IEP meetings were going to pile up on everyone in the fall, we urged the District to start holding virtual IEPS in cases where it was possible. Some can't be held virtually because there is still testing that needs to be done. Please be ready for a number of IEP meetings in the fall when school resumes and be kind to your special ed staff.

ADOPTING A LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

The District is looking at a Learning Management System (LMS) for teachers to use in the upcoming school year. The purpose for this is to manage and create a single workspace for teachers and students to use during distance learning. Currently we/students are using many online platforms such as: School Loop, Google Classroom, Illuminate, Turnitin, Flipgrid, etc. Some students report that there are too many applications they must navigate in order to do their work for their classes. Using a LMS would make distance learning easier to manage and use for the general population.

There are two LMS's they are currently exploring: Schoology and Canvas.. These will be thoroughly examined before a selection is made in order to make sure it is the best fit for our teachers and learners. We also want to ensure that all of the work we have done on our current platforms will be easily transferred to the new system.

DONATION TO THE FOOD BANK

Given how many people have lost their jobs and how many more people are relying on food banks to feed their families, AEA voted to donate the money we would have spent on our social this spring to the Contra Costa-Solano County Food Bank. They provide meals for over 178,000 people each month.

The food bank can always use more help.

If you are able, consider the following volunteer opportunities:

- Sorting food at the Concord warehouse
- Sorting food at the Fairfield warehouse
- Distributing food in Vacaville
- Distributing food in Antioch
- Donating money to them directly at give.foodbankccs.org/give/190501/#!/donation/checkout
- Check out their volunteer signup page at volunteer.foodbankccs.org/ways-to-help

TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Nickerson is formally seeking certificated volunteers to be on a committee to help gather ideas

and plan for the upcoming school year. Due to the coronavirus pandemic our normal class arrangements will need to conform to the CDC guidelines and keep in mind the health and wellness of our students and staff while keeping our strong educational values.

We are unsure of the time commitment of this committee, but members would likely meet during a couple of hours of virtual meetings weekly or even twice a week, typically early to mid-afternoon during the month of June.

If you volunteered to be on one of the committees, thank you! John is working closely with AEA and ensuring that our voices are heard. John stated in his May 22nd email "you do not have to be on the workgroup to express your opinion or be in the know. All staff will be kept apprised of developments and opinions will be solicited periodically during the summer."

CTA MEMBER BENEFITS - HIGHLIGHTS

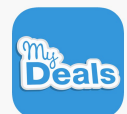
California Teachers Association (CTA) has many member benefits for us, as many of you already know. Here's a reminder to look into these ideas this summer when you have a little more time on your hands.

[CTA Retirement Savings Plan](#) - Are you saving enough for retirement? We strongly encourage all of our members to look at the [STRS calculator](#) and figure this out. It's more than likely you should have an additional 403(b) for savings and we recommend CTA's Retirement Savings Plan.

Are you looking for ways to save money this summer? [Check out these product discounts](#) offered through NEA: 85% off of magazine prices, GE Appliance discounts and free delivery and 15% off of AT&T cell service.

Also, [CTA offers the following travel discounts](#) (fingers crossed that we can do this!): Discounted car rentals, hotel stays, theme park discounts, restaurant coupons, movie discounts and more.

Download the *My Deals* mobile app to search from over 240,000 deals and save right from your smartphone.



AEA ELECTIONS RESULTS

Thank you for your service!

Announcing new and returning site Reps:

Acalanes Site Reps

Cathy Challacombe merricombe@gmail.com

Bruce Lengacher bcleng@sbcglobal.net

Joe Schottland schottland@comcast.net

Campolindo Site Reps

David Blumberg dblumberg2@comcast.net

Dino Petrocco riley091505@yahoo.com

Amanda Renno ajkrenno@gmail.com

Las Lomas Site Reps

Ladan Amin lamin_2001@yahoo.com

Jim Morgan swimmorgan@hotmail.com

Peat Sutherland runpeat5@yahoo.com

Miramonte Site Reps

Xavier Frippiat xfrippiat@gmail.com

Katie Low kathrynlow4190@gmail.com

Colleen Williams colleenryanwilliams@gmail.com

ACIS/Transition Site Rep

Caron Brownlee caronbrownlee@sbcglobal.net

Negotiators

Misha Buchel (Lead) mbuchel@yahoo.com

Ken Lorge (Acalanes) kenlorge@yahoo.com

Patrick Wildermuth (Campolindo)

sfbayview@gmail.com

Kim Fisher (Las Lomas) fisherkim79@yahoo.com

Rebecca Promessi (Miramonte)

beccapro1026@gmail.com

Your Executive Board remains the same:

President - Lori Tewksbury (Acalanes)

mstewks@yahoo.com

Vice President - Ken Lorge (Acalanes)

kenlorge@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer - Justin Seligman (Campolindo)

Seligman_justins@hotmail.com

Communications-Membership Chair - Sarah Morgan (Campolindo)

sarahcmorgan@gmail.com

At-Large Member - Petro Petreas (Campolindo)

petropetreas@yahoo.com

Elections Chair

Vicki Zalewski (Acalanes) vmzalewski@gmail.com

AEA 2020-2021 MEETING DATES

August 5, 2020 (Wednesday) before staff development (would be last day of institute day if it were happening)

Regular Rep meetings will always be Thursday afternoons.

September 10, 2020

October 15, 2020

November 12, 2020

December 10, 2020

January 14, 2021

February 18, 2021

March 18, 2021

April 22, 2021

May 20, 2021

IMPORTANT DATES

June 3rd & 17th, 2020 - Governing Board meetings;
7pm via Zoom

July 16th, 2020 - Special Rep Council Meeting to
Discuss School in the Fall

August 5th, 2020 - First Rep Council meeting of the
2020-21 School Year; 3:30pm (place TBD)

August 5th, 2020 - Governing Board Meeting; 7pm,
likely via Zoom

August 6th, 2020 - Staff Development Day

August 7th, 2020 - Institute Day

August 11th, 2020 - First Day of School

*Have a good summer,
AEA Members!*



*A good rest is much-needed. We know
this has been a challenging school year
and we appreciate all of your efforts and
extra care for our students.*

*Until our next adventure,
Your AEA Team*