Hello! We hope this finds you well, looking forward to finalizing grades, and bringing this school year to a close. This is another long communication, so thanks in advance for bearing with us.

We know many of you are concerned about the current status of planning to reopen our HBUHSD schools in the Fall. Many of you, also, are eager to begin planning for Fall. DEA understands your concern, so we are sharing what we know and how we are working on your behalf.

**Are Plans Being Made?**
The California Department of Education (CDE) is expected to release their reopening guidelines in early June, possibly this week. You may have seen that the Los Angeles County Office of Education released their framework on Tuesday, well ahead of the CDE. The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is reportedly waiting on those state guidelines before issuing the framework that will guide our re-opening.

DEA has and continues to request that the District consider a “Task Force” model similar to the statewide Education Coalition, to plan for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Most districts statewide have formed a key central group of major stakeholders to allow planning to be coordinated by one group that can then report to and gather information from the stakeholders that they represent. The District is not using a key central group; they are currently meeting with existing groups separately, using the same process that they used to create the Spring 2020 grading framework. Your DEA Executive Board and Bargaining Team have offered to send representatives to all focus group meetings in order to help with contractual concerns, but the District has declined our offer to help in these focus groups.

Since the CDE and OCDE guidelines have not been released, DEA asserts that there is time to change the current planning model the District has chosen, and we stand ready and willing to spend as much time as needed in service of a results-oriented and transparent planning process that will ease the anxiety that many of you are expressing. We have also made ourselves available to work over the summer to ensure Fall 2020 is a success. DEA is waiting on a response from Dr. Harwick. A current email conversation is taking place, but we have received no reply to Shawne’s May 21st email communication and no reply to Shawne’s May 27th and June 1st text messages.
What is DEA Doing?
Your DEA Bargaining Team is meeting regularly with the District. To date, the Bargaining Team has met with the District nine (9) times since the March 13, 2020 school closure; the next negotiations session to discuss Fall 2020 is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2nd. Making sure that working conditions are equitable and reasonable and that our schools are safe to reopen are DEA’s top priorities. Any changes to working conditions (safety conditions, number of days worked per week and per year, hours worked per day, class size, bell schedules, etc.) must, by law in accordance with the Educational Employees Relations Act (CA Government Code) and our Collective Bargaining Agreement, be negotiated by DEA’s appointed bargaining team.

Since the March 2020 emergency COVID-19 school closure, the DEA Executive Board and Representative Council have met and will continue to meet weekly to address concerns, advocate for our members, and keep you informed and protected. All members are welcome to attend our weekly Rep Council meetings held via Zoom on Mondays at 3:30 PM.

What Can You Do?
Many of you are also asking what you can do to prepare for Fall 2020. Here are our recommendations:

- Engage in planning activities that are helpful to you. We know that teams of teachers throughout the District are meeting, both formally and informally, as we await guidance from the OCDE and the HBUHSD. If that planning brings you some peace of mind, we support you. Please know, though, that those plans may not come to fruition, depending on forthcoming guidelines, HBUHSD plans, and, of course, the ever-evolving COVID-19 situation.

- Stay Informed: Follow CDE, OCDE, and DEA on Social Media. Check in with your School Site Reps. Check both your personal and district emails often. Ask questions. Don’t overwhelm yourself, but arm yourself with facts. Fact-check the rumor mill.

- If you are a DEA member in a focus group, we urge you to communicate your concerns about possible plans discussed in these focus groups to your DEA Building Chairs, Site Reps, Bargaining Team, and/or Executive Board. If you participate in any HBUHSD focus group, please keep in mind and make the others in the group aware that any changes to working conditions (safety conditions, number of days worked per week and per year, hours worked per day, class size, bell schedules, etc.) must, by law in accordance with the California Educational Employment Relations Act (CA Government Code) and our Collective Bargaining Agreement, be negotiated by DEA’s appointed bargaining team. You are not expected to be the care-takers of the legal rights of all DEA members. That’s the job of your Association’s Leadership Teams, and we are here to help you with that! Our contact information and your Building Chair emails are always included in the monthly newsletter at hbuhsdde.org.
Help DEA advocate to protect public education:

- **At the federal level**, the HEROES Act has passed the House, but has yet to be taken up by the Senate. Passing that Act will ensure that Governor Newsom’s 10% proposed cuts will not happen. When DEA and CTA reach out, please take action.

- **At the state level**, the California Teachers Association (CTA) and the Education Coalition are lobbying Sacramento to reduce and/or eliminate the proposed education funding cuts, independent of the HEROES Act. When DEA and CTA reach out, please take action.

- **Also at the state level**, the Schools and Communities First Initiative will be on the November 2020 ballot; this would close the corporate property tax loophole and generate an additional $12 billion per year for education. Learn more about [this vital initiative here](#). Also, be sure to fact-check the rumors about this. Large corporations are working hard to mislead the public in order to protect their own interests.

- **At the local level**, written public communications to the HBUHSD Board of Trustees can be sent to cthomas@hbuhsd.edu. The communication window opens the Friday prior to the Board meeting at 5 pm and closes the Monday prior at 5 pm. For the next Board meeting, that window will be **June 5th, from 5 pm to June 8th, at 5 pm**. DEA will provide reminders via email and Social Media.

Thank you for all that you do for our students. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have questions or concerns.

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