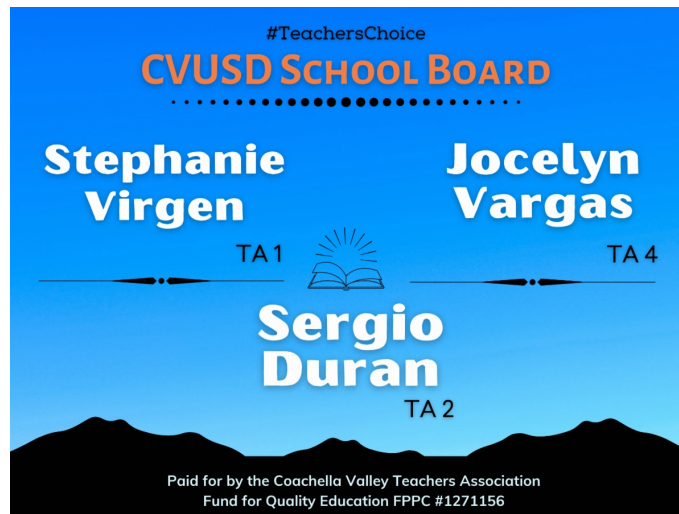




October 12, 2020

[Coachella Valley Teachers Association](#)
[California Teachers Association](#)
[National Education Association](#)

Join our mailing list!



Greetings!

Good morning! I hope everyone is doing well. It looks like our numbers are moving back up toward the purple tier. We are keeping a close watch on that as it relates to our need to remain in Distance Learning.

School Board Meeting Update

At last week's school board meeting (and actually the one before that, too) the subject of teachers giving students failing grades was brought up by Board Member Jesus Gonzalez. He stated that he was putting District Admin on notice because he believes that teachers are unfairly grading students, that the administration knows who they (the teachers) are, and the administrators need to address it. Board Member Silvia Paz agreed with him.

It seems that even though we don't have a hold harmless directive from CDE like we did in the Spring, these Board Members expect teachers to still practice the hold harmless policy for grading. What we understood from their comments was that teachers are grading unfairly and not allowing students to improve, not taking certain factors into account, and basically it sounds as if the board is okay with students not doing work, but not okay with grades which reflect that. Of course there are situations in which a student may not be able to access the work, but it didn't sound as if that's what they were referring to. It's somewhat unclear. I imagine you could email the board members for clarification.

What is clear, however, is California Education Code related to School Board Members getting involved in grades given to students. I'm attaching that here for you to read:

Ca Ed Code 49066.

- (a) When grades are given for any course of instruction taught in a school district, **the grade given to each pupil shall be the grade determined by the teacher of the course** and the determination of the pupil's grade by the teacher, in the absence of clerical or mechanical mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetency, shall be final.
- (b) **The governing board of the school district and the superintendent of such district shall not order a pupil's grade to be changed** unless the teacher who determined such grade is, to

the extent practicable, given an opportunity to state orally, in writing, or both, the reasons for which such grade was given and is, to the extent practicable, included in all discussions relating to the changing of such grade.

All Bargaining Unit Member Meeting 10/13/2020 at 4:30 pm

Last year we were in the midst of bargaining for the 20/21 school year (regular contract negotiations) when the schools got closed down. At that point, with everything going on, our team decided to close bargaining and change nothing in the contract, and to bargain again for the 21/22 school year. The District wouldn't agree to end the bargaining session...until this week.

We now have a Tentative Agreement (TA) which states bargaining for 20/21 is closed with no changes to the contract. [Click here to see the TA](#). (This TA does not have anything to do with negotiating an MOU for the Hybrid Model and does not affect our Distance Learning MOU.) Because it is a TA, both parties must ratify it.

CVTA Members will be given the opportunity to vote electronically from 10/16/2020 through 10/19/2020. As always, the email with voting links will be sent to the personal email address we have on file for you.

All Bargaining Unit Members (this includes CVTA non-members) can attend the virtual meeting on 10/13/2020 to have the opportunity to ask questions about the TA. This meeting is only to discuss the TA, not anything related to the MOUs. Here is the link to join that meeting:

Meeting link: <https://cta.webex.com/cta/j.php?MTID=m64f456cf8ca5a6ab1eedb887b30a7f9a>

Meeting number: 145 493 4500

Password: VPidafTp397

Join by phone +1-415-655-0003 United States TOLL

Access code: 145 493 4500

School Board Elections - VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

CVTA's Rep Council has approved the endorsement of three candidates for CVUSD School Board:

- Stephanie Virgen for Trustee Area 1
- Sergio Duran for Trustee Area 2
- Jocelyn Vargas for Trustee Area 4
- There is no endorsement for Trustee Area 3.

We will need volunteers to support our endorsed candidates by helping out with CVTA election activities. Please let us know if you are willing to volunteer your time, and how you prefer to help. **We continue no contact precinct walking and phone banking on October 17th, 24th, and 31st. Please contact us for more information!**

Please let us know if you would like yard signs (those who reside within CVUSD boundaries)!

FREE - For Brand New CTA Members Only

I am pleased to announce that CTA has enhanced the value of membership for newly hired educators. **CTA now provides newly hired educators with 9 months of CTA Introductory Disability insurance from The Standard, at no cost, when they join CTA for the first time within 90 days of their first day of work.** This important coverage can help newly hired educators protect their incomes, if they are unable to work due to a covered illness, injury, pregnancy or childbirth.

When newly hired educators become CTA members within their first 90 days of work, they will be automatically enrolled in CTA Introductory Disability insurance. New members will only need to contact The Standard to arrange to continue their coverage before the end of the 9-month Introductory period or to file a claim, although they can always call The Standard with any other questions they have. This new benefit also helps protect newly hired educators from non-endorsed vendors who often enroll new members in Disability insurance plans that are not union-endorsed and may be less valuable for our members. **While educators transferring districts are not eligible for this offer, they do have an opportunity to enroll in CTA-endorsed Voluntary Disability Insurance without answering health questions if they apply within their first 270 days of**

work.

To learn more, please visit CTAMemberBenefits.org/Disability.

Thank you for everything you do...it does not go unnoticed! Have a great week!

Visit Our
Website

Yes on 15
SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST



Important Dates

- **October 13th** - All Bargaining Unit Member Meeting re: TA 4:30 pm
- **October 14th** - CVTA Rep Council Meeting, 4:30 pm
- **October 15th** - Deadline to meet face to face with evaluator
- **October 17th** - Precinct Walking and Phone Banking
- **October 20th** - CVTA Office Hours, 4:30-5:30 pm
- **October 22nd** - CVUSD School Board Meeting
- **October 24th** - Precinct Walking and Phone Banking
- **October 27th** - Middle School Conferences
- **October 28th** - CVTA Eboard Meeting
- **October 29th** - High School Conferences
- **October 31st** - Precinct Walking and Phone Banking

Carissa Carrera
CVTA President

"You can't do it unless you organize."

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Contact Our Team

