

LOMPOC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Transmittal

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Dear Lompoc Community,

School districts face Monday walkout over vaccines

A statewide school walkout is being planned for Monday, October 18 by social media groups protesting vaccine and mask mandates for schoolchildren levied by Gov. Gavin Newsom. The organized protest is the latest move by parents and voters dissatisfied with both on-campus mask-wearing and vaccine mandates in California schools.

The Patch

As you read above there are plans across the state for a walkout to protest the vaccines. Our focus has been and will continue to be our students. Therefore, regardless of how many students actually attend school on Monday we will provide the best education given the circumstances we may find ourselves in.

Vaccination Numbers

As an update regarding LUSD staff vaccination numbers, we have seen an uptick with 77% of our permanent staff (meaning we excluded substitutes, walk-on coaches, etc.) being vaccinated.

Education Week: How bad are school staffing shortages? What we learned by asking administrators

More than three-quarters of district leaders and principals say they're experiencing at least moderate staffing shortages in their school buildings this year, according to the newly published results of a nationally representative EdWeek Research Center survey.

Fifteen percent said shortages are "very severe," 25 percent said they're "severe," and another 37 percent classified staffing challenges as "moderate." Just 5 percent of administrators said they aren't experiencing any staffing shortages in their schools or districts this year. Another 18 percent said the shortages are "mild" or "very mild."

The shortages are most acute, according to the survey results, among substitute teachers, bus drivers and instructional aides. Slightly more than three-quarters of respondents said they're having trouble finding enough substitutes to cover teacher absences; 68 percent said bus drivers are hard to come by; and 55 percent said they're struggling to fill open positions for paraprofessionals and instructional aides. Full-time teaching positions, too, are causing headaches for administrators. Just shy of half of respondents identified teachers among the roles they're struggling to fill.

Week of the School Administrator

Our administrators go above and beyond and during the pandemic we have seen this even more. They have taken on additional responsibilities, while also working to nurture the mental and emotional health of our staff and students. This is a huge task and we are appreciative of all the work they do to make our schools a better place for students. We hand-delivered cards with inspirational magnets to all of our administrators this week. The cards were signed by the Cabinet with a hand-written note. It was great to recognize their hard work and dedication.

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Superintendents Meeting

At this week's meeting we discussed vaccinations, mandates and what that may mean going forward. In addition, went over the dashboard and data.

Leadership Meeting

This week Lompoc leaders participated in training about best practices for lessons. The focus was on high-impact, low prep strategies that they can provide to teachers when they are checking for understanding in their classrooms. We all know that checking for understanding is one of the most impactful strategies. Leaders were also then provided with an opportunity to collaborate with their peers.

Military Opt Out versus Opt In

Schools are required by the federal government to provide information to military recruiters unless parents have opted out. Schools are prohibited by law from creating an opt in.

(a)Policy

(1) Access to student recruiting information

Notwithstanding <u>section 1232g(a)(5)(B)</u> of this title, each <u>local educational agency</u> receiving assistance under this chapter shall provide, upon a request made by a military recruiter or an <u>institution of higher education</u>, access to the name, address, and telephone listing of each <u>secondary school</u> student served by the <u>local educational agency</u>, unless the <u>parent</u> of such student has submitted the prior consent request under paragraph (2).

(2) Consent

(A) Opt-out process

A <u>parent</u> of a <u>secondary school</u> student may submit a written request, to the <u>local educational</u> <u>agency</u>, that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released for purposes of paragraph (1) without prior written consent of the <u>parent</u>. Upon receiving such request, the <u>local educational agency</u> may not release the student's name, address, and telephone listing for such purposes without the prior written consent of the <u>parent</u>.

(B) Notification of opt-out process

Each <u>local educational agency</u> shall notify the <u>parents</u> of the students served by the agency of the option to make a request described in subparagraph (A).

(3) Same access to students

Each <u>local educational agency</u> receiving assistance under this chapter shall provide military recruiters the same access to <u>secondary school</u> students as is provided to institutions of higher education or to prospective employers of those students.

(4) Rule of construction prohibiting opt-in processes

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to allow a <u>local educational agency</u> to withhold access to a student's name, address, and telephone listing from a military recruiter or <u>institution of higher education</u> by implementing an opt-in process or any other process other than the written consent request process under paragraph (2)(A).

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(5) Parental consent

For purposes of this subsection, whenever a student has attained 18 years of age, the permission or consent required of and the rights accorded to the <u>parents</u> of the student shall only be required of and accorded to the student.

(b) Notification

The <u>Secretary</u>, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall, not later than 120 days after December 10, 2015, notify <u>school leaders</u>, school administrators, and other educators about the requirements of this section.

(c) Exception

The requirements of this section do not apply to a private <u>secondary school</u> that maintains a religious objection to service in the Armed Forces if the objection is verifiable through the corporate or other organizational documents or materials of that school.

(<u>Pub. L. 89–10, title VIII, § 8528</u>, formerly title IX, § 9528, as added <u>Pub. L. 107–110, title IX</u>, § 901, Jan. 8, 2002, <u>115 Stat. 1983</u>; renumbered title VIII, § 8528, and amended <u>Pub. L. 114–95</u>, <u>title VIII</u>, §§ 8001(a)(6), 8025, Dec. 10, 2015, <u>129 Stat. 2088</u>, 2089, 2114.)

Standards Alignment Project Follow-Up

As you know, we had our first District-wide PLC opportunity for staff to review the data from their Unit 1 Assessments that were developed during the Summer Institute. We also sent out a follow up email to staff asking them for "Glows"- areas that went well, and "Grows" areas where we can improve. Based on the feedback from staff, we created a FAQ document and sent the below email out to all Certificated Staff to address their concerns.

October TSP Newsletter

Here is the October TSP Newsletter!

Covered in this Issue: Guiding Instruction Through Assessment and Feedback

https://www.smore.com/7a2hu

Maxim Substitutes

Maxim continues to provide substitutes for about 30 paraeducator positions each day. The substitutes are assigned to a school site and the site administrator places the substitute into the appropriate position. Maxim continues to recruit substitutes for additional positions. To date, Maxim has been able to provide one or more substitutes for the following positions: Child Nutrition Worker, Custodian, Campus Safety Liaison, Grounds Worker, and Health Clerk.

Community Collaboration

On Thursday, October 14, LUSD Student Services administrators Brian Jaramillo and Paul Bommersbach met with local community agencies to provide updates on District practices and listen to the perspective of the agencies. LUSD shared the COVID testing that started the week of October 11 at school sites, the decrease in COVID cases among students, and the vaccination mandate being discussed by the LUSD Board. VSFB shared that contractors at the Base are required to be vaccinated; and military staff are already vaccinated. Lompoc Health shared that they are considering the needs of the community regarding COVID testing and mobile vaccinations. LUSD also shared that all volunteers on campus must be vaccinated and contracted staff in the District must follow the same protocols as LUSD staff.

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SEL Counselors

SEL Counselors met in their District PLC meetings on Thursday October 14. The SEL counselors meet in groups of three to discuss current initiatives and programming at school sites. The counselors have begun implementing small group academies at the school sites targeting particular SEL skills of students that require assistance. The counselors continue to provide Tier 2 support to students, crisis support when available, support to the implementation of the SEL curriculum at the site, and support to the PBIS process. The SEL Counselors also participated in a workshop on Behavior Solutions on Wednesday, October 13, which will continue next Wednesday on October 20.

Special Education Plan Committee

On Tuesday, October 12, the Special Education Plan Committee held its first meeting of the 2021-2022 school year. The purpose of the committee is to review the Special Education Plan created in 2020, discuss the progress of implementation of the plan, and make changes to the plan as needed. The committee is comprised of school administrators, special education teachers and staff, general education teachers, and District office staff.

LUSD Nurses

Special Education administration held a monthly meeting with school nurses on Wednesday October 6 to collaborate on current issues facing the health offices at schools. LUSD continues to recruit for qualified LVNs and use additional Health Clerks to attempt to have as much coverage as possible. Nurses, LVNs and Health Clerks are greatly appreciated for the hard work they put in daily during this time.

CPI Training for De-escalation

This school year the Special Education Department has already trained 36 teachers and paraeducators in the de-escalation behavioral techniques of CPI. Another 30 participants are scheduled to be trained during our November 12 professional development day. The Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) trains staff members to make in the moment decisions that match the level of response to the risk of the crisis. An emphasis is placed on least-restrictive response.

PBIS Training

On Monday, October 4, John and Jessica Hannigan conducted the first day of Tier 3 PBIS training for schools. All elementary schools, LVMS, MHS, and CDS are forming their Tier 3 team this year to create individualized plans for students that need more assistance than Tier 2 supports. Tier 3 begins with establishing a school culture and expectation for supporting all students, no matter how they behave. The goal is for the appropriate supports to be in place for each student, which includes support staff and teachers understanding their role.

School Plans for Student Achievement

Site administrators have been hard at work finalizing their School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs). Similar to the LCAP, the SPSAs are annual plans that require a significant amount of stakeholder engagement, reviewing of data, and development of goals, actions and strategies to identify areas of need and activities to support improvement. SPSAs are aligned with LUSD's LCAP goals and outline how each school plans to spend their allocation of Supplemental and Concentration grant funds along with Title I funds. The plans will be approved by School Site Councils and brought to the School Board on October 26. Each site will prepare a brief presentation to share with the Board and community throughout the year. We want to

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acknowledge the time and effort principals spend on their SPSAs and we are confident students will benefit from the targeted goals and evidence-based actions outlined in each plan.

FREE Online 24/7 Tutoring Support for 5th-12th Graders

LUSD continues to partner with https://paper.co/ to provide online tutoring support for all 5th-12th grade students. Students can access tutoring support by opening Clever and clicking on the Paper icon. Students have access to live, on demand tutoring in all subject areas and can request feedback on any written essay, college application, resume or writing assignment. No matter what is needed, students can just click "ask a tutor," and help is only a message away. Teachers may view their students' activities and engagement with Paper tutoring on their teacher dashboard. In the last month, we had 249 students actively using Paper – if you need help with a math problem or an essay – we encourage students to give it a try!

Safety

At the monthly safety meeting this week we discussed items that needed to be included in the annual Safety Plan for each site as well as the roles and responsibilities of the sites for this year's California Shakeout which will be happening October 21 at 10:21 AM.

CTE

Planning continues for the November 12 PD day for all of LUSD staff. All CTE teachers will be meeting to collaborate on topics such as certifications available, CTE standards alignment, and Career Readiness skills/soft skills. Santa Barbara County CTE staff will be providing support and resources for our CTE teachers.

Allegra/Joy School English Team

The Allegra/Joy School English Team joined the LUSD Curriculum & Innovations Team this week to make sure TK-1 teachers and students across the district had full access to The JSE program. They made their way to Los Berros, La Cañada, Clarence Ruth, Miguelito, La Honda and Buena Vista. The JSE Team was greeted by eager young people and teachers. The needs in each classroom varied from password help to numbering iPads to adjusting settings for individual students. Teachers were grateful for the different levels of support and excited to get their students up and running on Joy School English. We appreciate the time and effort put into their two-day visit!

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Business Services Update

California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

In line with the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), beginning in 2022, LUSD is transitioning from at-large elections to by-trustee area elections where residents may vote for a single Board of Trustee candidate residing in newly drawn trustee areas, and will not be able to vote for candidates from "by-trustee" areas which they do not reside in. The public will be invited to provide input on the District formation mapping during public hearings, and the new District maps must be submitted to the County by April 17, 2022. If the new District maps draw multiple current Governing Board members, all Governing Board members serve out their full terms of office.

On May 11, 2021, the Board passed a motion to select demographers at Redistricting Partners to complete the process of adjusting the lines of our voting districts for the upcoming 2022 Board elections. A contract with Redistricting Partners has been finalized, and several of us recently met with their representative. That contract which is valid through the end of June 2022 is for a five-meeting process, the one used most often by other Districts and public agencies.

To meet the April 2022 County deadline, Redistricting Partners has suggested that our first meeting, held at regularly scheduled Board meetings, take place on December 13, 2021. Then, one meeting per month would follow in January and February, and two during March.

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The first meeting will be largely educational for the Board, the District, and the public, and it is structured as a "Redistricting 101" workshop. Subsequent meetings are also educational, but include more outreach to gain the public's opinion about how boundaries should be drawn. The third and fourth meetings are primarily dedicated to adjusting boundaries and choosing a final map. Then at the final meeting in March, the Board is given the opportunity to vote on and approve the newly drawn by-trustee area maps.

Child Nutrition Services Update

This week, Child Nutrition Services (CNS) has 14 open positions.

- Ten opens positions due to unfilled vacancies
- Four open positions due to three working out of class (WOC), and one leave of absence (LOA).
- Last week there were a total of 35 unfilled shifts.

Last week, CNS served 35,156 meals.

- 9,722 Breakfasts
- 24,620 Lunches
- 814 After School Snacks

With vendor shortages increasing, CNS is having to make menu changes almost daily now. We are beginning to experience a shortage on paper goods. CNS appreciates everyone's patience and understanding as we navigate through this challenging year.

In recognition of the National School Lunch Week, we'd like to say thank you to all of the hard-working Child Nutrition Services employees for a job well done!



Fiscal Services Update

Auditors are visiting the District this week from October 11 - 15, we have been pulling files and answering all their questions. Once we are completed with requests from the auditors, we will begin working on the first interim report.

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M&O Update

Installation of a new light pole was placed in parking lot where our Maintenance & Operations staff park their vehicles. See attached photo.



Transportation Update

Our Transportation Manager and Lead Mechanic are finishing up with the grant for three new electric buses.

Your partner in education,

Trevor McDonald Superintendent of Schools

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